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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

October 1992

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INTRODUCING
National Commander
Roger A. Munson
P. 39

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 133, No. 4

October 1992

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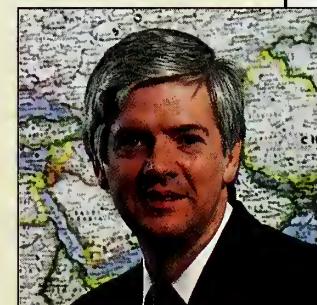
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COVER In their battle against Japanese auto makers, new U.S. production facilities, such as this Saturn assembly line, help the Big Three produce the cars America wants. For more about today's car wars, see Page 24. Photograph by Ted Thai/TIME.

THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3.1 million members. These military-service veterans, working through more than 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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National Commander
Dominic D. DiFrancesco

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Daniel S. Wheeler

Editor
John Greenwald

Managing Editor
Miles Z. Epstein

Associate Editor

Raymond H. Mahon

Assistant Editors

T. Douglas Donaldson
Ken Scharnberg

Art Director

Simon Smith

Art Assistant

Caron M. Morales

Production Manager

William L. Poff

Administration

Kathy Ferrer, Joan L. Berzins

Advertising Director
Donald B. Thomson

Advertising Assistants

Diane Andretti, Robyn Black

The American Legion Magazine
P.O. Box 7068
Indianapolis, IN 46207
317-635-8411

Publisher's Representatives

Fox Associates, Inc.
Chicago: 312-644-3888
New York: 212-725-2106
Los Angeles: 213-487-5630
Detroit, MI: 313-543-0068
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The American Legion (ISSN 0886-1234) is published monthly by The American Legion, 5561 W. 74th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Second-class postage paid at Indianapolis, IN 46204 and additional mailing offices. Price: Annual subscription, \$12 (\$18, Foreign); post-sponsored gift subscriptions, \$4; Single copy, \$2. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The American Legion, Input Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Change of Address: Notify The American Legion, Input Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206. 317-328-4616. Attach old address label, provide old and new addresses and current membership card number.

To request microfilm copies, please write to: University Microfilms, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Canada Post International Publications Mail (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. 546321. Re-entered second class mail matter at Manila Central Post office dated December 22, 1991.



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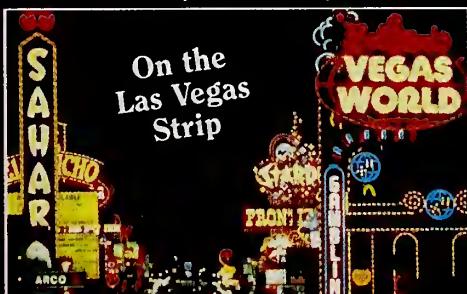
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OFFER EXPIRES MIDNIGHT NOVEMBER 20, 1992 S1128 AL

How To Cut Defense

I am a 14-year member of the South Dakota Army National Guard. I realize that the Guard and Reserve must take some cuts, but these cuts should not exceed those scheduled for our active-duty counterparts ("In Defense Of The Nation," August).

The dual role of the National Guard provides for not only national defense, but also for valuable assistance to states during emergencies.

*Timothy A. Reisch
Howard, S.D.*

The National Guard and Reserve should not be cut. Our active forces should never be cut. Instead, congressmen should cut their staffs.

*Ralph Blodgett
New Milford, Pa.*

Rep. Les Aspin needs his head examined (Big Issues, August). If we cut the military defense budget, we're not only cutting active and reserves, but also a lot of civilian employees.

Sure, compared to what it was, the Soviet Union is no longer a big threat, but now it's more unstable and more dangerous. We don't know who has the button to press what. Still, we've got a lot of loonies south of us, half the Middle East and China. Who knows who has what and where, as far as military capability?

Those veterans on Capitol Hill who are even thinking of cutting our defense, over any amount of time, should be ashamed of themselves. They are short-changing our defense and the future of civilian employees.

V *Craig Richardson
Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.*

Congratulations on your fine coverage of our most critical national security issue—how to restructure our Armed Forces.

The five articles in the special section of the August issue gave an excellent presentation of the many pros and cons of downsizing, including the important military, economic and philosophic questions about the role of the Reserves. Thanks for turning the spotlight on these important concerns.

*Dwayne S. Anderson
Vienna, Va.*

The reduction in the military should be on a very gradual basis—possibly just not taking new people in. I'm opposed to heavy, drastic cuts.

V *Howard Latton
Portage, Wis.*

Boot Camp

"Prison Boot Camps" (August) was probably the most disgusting thing I've ever seen in THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine.

The camp takes non-violent felons and permits sadistic animals to abuse them, both physically and mentally for 90 days. The camp reinforces in the prisoners that might makes right, and he who has the big stick can rule his fellowman.

Is this savagery the right way? What about tender, loving, caring compassion? Is that all wrong?

*John M. Hefner
Kaufman, Texas*

There are no flaws to this Marine Corps-style basic training, which should have been experienced 10 years earlier by these young criminals.

What in the hell is wrong with compelling these prison maggots to learn how to appreciate the modern labor-saving devices and be more sociable? Society should put the screws right to these guys for 12 months, not just 90 days. This kind of treatment is not shock treatment; it's excellent training for changing the attitudes of the likes of these guys.

*Harold Haslett
Greene, N.Y.*

The article "Prison Boot Camps" seemed to support, even enjoy, the complete humiliation of the prisoners. Even worse was the apparent enjoyment of the camp staff.

What kind of people do you expect to see in your society? Unemployment runs rampant, politicians bleed the system for all it's worth, work loyalty means nothing compared to the greed of the employer. The family unit has all but completely collapsed, and you think the answer is hand kids to sadistic rednecks and intimidate them into becoming good citizens?

When our leaders decide to address the real causes of crime and criminals, then maybe we will see some progress.

*M.A. Rathbone
Columbus, Miss.*

The Legacy Of War

I am a WWII veteran and perturbed at the treatment all veterans have received after serving their country. The Vietnam veterans were subjected to Agent Orange ("The Agent Orange Please turn page

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This month's questions are:

- Should Congress ban abortion counseling in federally financed clinics? (See Page 8.)
- Do you believe America's auto industry can be saved? (See Page 24.)

Here's how you've voted in previous polls:

- | | | |
|--|---------|--------|
| • Should Congress support the President's trade policy on China? | Yes 17% | No 83% |
| • Do you believe NATO is still needed? | Yes 60% | No 40% |

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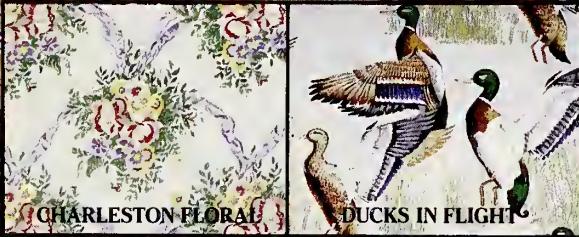
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1992/S

Legacy," August). And the Gulf War veterans are experiencing an unknown disease. The Vietnam veterans are getting the run-around; and the Gulf War veterans are being told the disease is nothing more than stress.

It is a damn shame to see the U.S.A. treating the veterans of all wars with such whitewash.

Benefits and care are being cut by our government, but billions are given away to other foreign countries upon demand. Sad but true.

These are the men who served their country with pride and honor; they are being denied.

*Eddie Stanko
White Oak, Pa.*

Loan, Sweet, Loan

Thank you for your article on VA home loans ("You Can Do It Again," April). After reading it, I called the VA office in Montgomery, Ala., and to my surprise, I did have loan benefits available. My wife, Sandra, and I are now in our new house on the Coosa River.

*W.H. Taft
Gadsden, Ala.*

Vets For A Free Cuba

The Cuban-American Veterans Association, which was formed mainly by Legion members of Cuban descent to voice opinions on the issue of freedom for Cuba, strongly agrees with the article "Cuba: The Good News And The Bad News" by Elliott Abrams (June). Although there are a few historical points of disagreement, we believe that overall, this article is one of the best recently written articles on Cuba.

*Jorge O. Fenton
Coral Gables, Fla.*

Pause In The Pledge

The article "I Pledge Allegiance" (July) and the cover photograph were much-needed reminders of the sanctity of this spoken dedication to the flag and to America.

Forty-four years ago, as a Navy enlisted man, I stood on a Mediterranean shore, staring at the stars and stripes that fluttered from the jack staff of my carrier. I realized then, with great emotion, that this fragile

piece of cloth was my protection, my link to freedom. Each time I join in the pledge, I am taken back to that shore.

Few recite the pledge correctly, though. The error is minor, but allow me. The original Pledge of Allegiance, written by Francis Bellamy, was used at the dedication of the Chicago World's Fair Grounds in 1892. Congress approved the pledge on Dec. 28, 1945. On Flag Day, June 14, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a law adding the words "under God."

The addition of those two words to a pledge already well-memorized by Americans created a minor problem. Everyone who knew the pledge in its original form ignored the punctuation and spoke the words "under God" as though they have been tacked on. Note that "one nation under God" is a complete phrase set off by commas as clearly indicated in the article in the July issue.

There is no comma after "nation."

The pledge should be recited this way "...and to the Republic for which it stands [pause] one nation under God [pause] indivisible [pause] with liberty and justice for all."

*William F. Vietinghoff
Thousand Oaks, Calif.*

With Gratitude

Allow me to thank you for publishing the fine article by Ken Scharnberg about the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans ("The Army of the Forgotten," June).

Again, on behalf of everyone here at the shelter, thank you for thinking of these men and women and for joining us in our battle against homelessness.

*Ken Smith
Executive Director
New England Shelter for
Homeless Veterans*

No Choice

I am writing in response to Warren Fieber's letter in the May Vetvoice. I am a homeless veteran. Mr. Fieber, you have no right, nor basis, to say we are homeless by choice. I have worn out my share of shoes, not to mention making blisters on my feet looking for your so-called helpful citizens. Until you put yourself in my shoes, you can't

make such statements. I'm proud to be a veteran, homeless or not. If I could, I would proudly serve my country again. Believe it.

*Michael Kloes
Sioux Falls, S.D.*

Post Scripts

Congratulations on publishing the article on the Postal Service, "A Congressional Scandal That Touches Every American" by Rep. William S. Broomfield (July). It certainly was an informative article. The Postal Service touches nearly every adult in the country. Postal costs are a hardship for every veterans' organization in this county. Print more articles in the future about the ills of this country, regardless of what political party is in power.

*Arthur Merish
Apollo Beach, Fla.*

Broomfield writes about the postal lobbying efforts as if we were going to storm the Capitol and seize the nation. Shame on him, and shame on THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine for giving him space to spew his venom.

*Robert E. Flynn
Legislative Representative
Branch 154, National Association
of Postal Carriers
West Palm Beach, Fla.*

Safety On

The writer of the letter "High Caliber" in the August Vetvoice had it right when he wrote, "Access to guns and a lack of gun-safety training may cause a child to be a more violent criminal."

I don't have any numbers to recite, but I am willing to bet that 99.99 percent of children (and adults) today who have access to guns do not have that gun-safety training.

*Bill Harter
Rochester, N.Y.*

Correction

In the August Legion News section, Illinois was omitted from the list that showed the states that have or have not passed a memorializing resolution to protect the U.S. Flag. At press time, the Illinois state legislature had not passed such legislation.

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SHOULD CONGRESS BAN ABORTION COUNSELING IN FEDERALLY FINANCED CLINICS?

Rep. Bill Emerson, R-Ohio

The debate surrounding the Title X regulations that fund family planning clinics is mired in confusion. The issue has nothing to do with free speech; nor does it affect the doctor-patient relationship. It is a question of whether American taxpayers should continue to finance abortion-on-demand.

The debate has become so distorted, most Americans haven't been told what the regulations actually do. They do not infringe on anyone's freedom to speak about abortion.

If it is determined that an abortion would be in a woman's best medical interest, the regulations call for referral to an appropriate facility. What the regulations prohibit is referral to an entity whose primary business is abortion.

Doctors are required to give patients complete medical information about their condition—including information about abortion if it is called for. What Title X regulations do prohibit is allowing federally supported clinic staffs to "counsel" pregnant women to have abortions. Planned Parenthood describes these staffs as "largely young and inexperienced" whose "formal training is relatively modest."

Critical decisions should be made by a woman with the advice and counsel of her physician.

The Title X program is designed to assist low-income families with family planning. Abortion is not family planning, and it should not be taxpayer-funded, particularly when 89 percent of Americans are opposed to abortion as a method of after-the-fact birth control.

Until the Title X regulations were issued, however, taxpayers were supporting abortions. One single organization receives approximately \$37 million in taxpayer dollars each year for "family planning," but in 1989 it performed 122,191 abortions and referred for another 83,835 abortions.

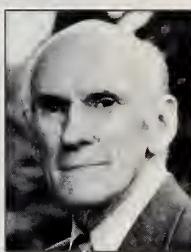
The President was right to veto legislation which would have overturned Title X regulations. They will not interfere with women's medical care, and they will not infringe on anyone's First Amendment rights. The regulations will put a stop to the use of taxpayer-financed abortion as a means of after-the-fact birth control, and they will direct federal funds to true family planning and prenatal care. □

YES



Sen. Alan Cranston, D-California

NO



I strongly supported S.323, a bill which would overturn regulations prohibiting counselors and health-care professionals employed at Title X funded clinics from discussing abortion as an option when counseling their pregnant patients.

The original guidelines of the Public Health Service Act of 1970 provided that pregnant women should be offered information and counseling regarding their pregnancies. Those requesting information on options for the management of an unintended pregnancy are to be given nondirective counseling on the following courses of action, and referral upon request: Prenatal care and delivery, infant care, foster care or adoption, and pregnancy termination.

Several studies confirmed that employees of Title X clinics functioned appropriately under these guidelines by simply providing information and referral for abortion services only when requested by their patients. Under the new regulations, however, these professionals are forbidden from providing any information regarding the option of abortion, even for patients who ask for such information.

If a woman who has a serious health problem becomes pregnant and visits one of these Title X clinics, she should be informed of all of the options for her own safety. Doctors are also faced with the possibility of malpractice suits if dangerous or deadly complications arise in cases of pregnant women with serious health problems.

The gag rule has caused many clinics to pledge to give up federal funds in order to provide information to women who request it. This denial of federal funding would cause a reduction in the quantity and quality of family planning services and other health services the clinics provide. The result will most certainly be more unintended pregnancies and ultimately more abortions — a result no one wants.

Government regulations which deny health-care professionals the right to provide patients with full and accurate information about all alternative courses of treatment and about the risks and benefits of each option are inconsistent

with the promotion of good medical practice. They deny women dependent upon Title X programs the full information they need to make an informed choice. □

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Yeltsin A Christian?

Gennady Burbulis, an aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, stunned a recent delegation of businessmen, journalists and political figures by claiming that Yeltsin has given up his atheism and now considers himself a Christian. Burbulis told a group sponsored by the American Krieble Institute, which promotes free enterprise in Russia, that they both acknowledge that "We could not have survived what we survived without the blessing and help of God."

But, as predicted in April's Washington Watch column, Yeltsin has also decided he needs help of another kind—authoritarian powers. He told a Constitutional Commission at the end of July that he wants the right to rule by decree to cope with the deteriorating economic situation.

The slow pace of economic reform is most apparent in the agricultural sector, where only one-fifth of the land is predicted to be in private hands by the end of this century.

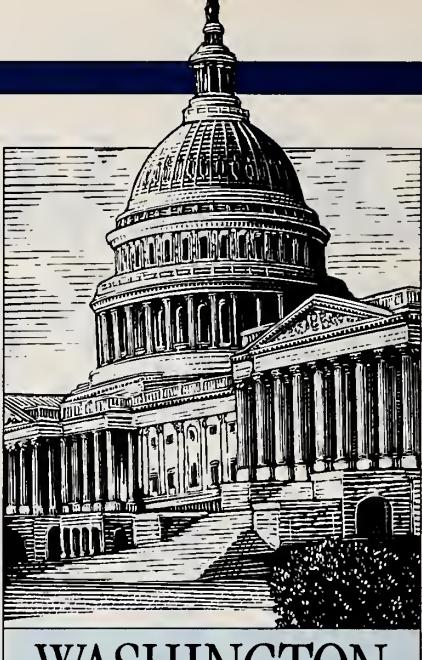
The Red Archives

Hopes—and fears—that former KGB agents would reveal the names of agents they recruited in the United States are starting to evaporate. Though Crown Publishers and the Russian Intelligence Service have announced plans for a series of books based on the archives, they also say no names will be revealed of those involved in Soviet espionage or disinformation operations against the West. Crown claims U.S. privacy laws prevent such disclosures.

But some individual former KGB officers, such as Oleg Kalugin, former chief of KGB foreign counter-intelligence, could go public. Although he refused for months to speak on the record about the journalists, academics and politicians he says were recruited in America, he is believed to be the source of the charge in *Human Events* that the late left-wing journalist I.F. Stone had been a paid Soviet agent.

If Kalugin goes public, his revelations could be sensational. Some former U.S. intelligence officials believe Kalugin has information implicating

Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for *Human Events* and other publications.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By Cliff Kincaid

members of Congress in Soviet influence activities.

Kalugin has already made headlines by claiming that the Soviets interrogated three American POWs after Hanoi said all POWs had been returned.

Putting People First

The group called Putting People First considered legal action against the Bill Clinton campaign for appropriating the name of the organization as a campaign slogan. The phrase "Putting People First" showed up in the title of a Clinton economic strategy document and in speeches by the candidate. The group, which counters the "animal rights" movement, has been using the slogan since its formation in 1990 and has a copyright pending. To make matters worse, an official of Putting People First complains that the Clinton campaign hasn't responded to their questionnaire on human rights and animal welfare.

A New NATO

The failure by the Europeans to take early action to stop the bloody Balkans war is leading some U.S. officials to consider transforming NATO under American leadership into a military force that could act outside Western Europe. Since the collapse of

the Warsaw Pact, the future of NATO has been uncertain. But conversion from a defensive to offensive mode could require submission of a revised NATO treaty to the Senate.

The Economic Issue

President Bush's advisers are desperately looking for ways to deflect attention away from his economic growth record, which is the worst of any President since Herbert Hoover. Bush himself, searching for a campaign theme, floated the idea of "trust," but that was effectively countered by Bill Clinton's reminder of how the President violated his "No New Taxes" pledge.

The developing GOP strategy was to divert attention from the economy by highlighting Clinton's running mate, Al Gore, and his threat to the auto states of the Midwest through his support for 45 mile-per-gallon fuel economy standards. Dan Quayle was expected to be the point man against Gore.

But Clinton would not be spared. In a replay of the Boston Harbor commercial against Michael Dukakis, the Republicans were also said to be preparing to run ads blaming Clinton for the pollution problem caused by waste from chicken-processing plants in northwestern Arkansas.

Raunchy Rap

Legislatures in several states are poised to follow the lead of Washington State in passing bills prohibiting the sale of sexually explicit or violent records, tapes and CDs to minors. Such legislation, requiring retailers to keep the material out of the view of minors, has gathered momentum since the national controversy over Ice-T's "Body Count" album.

Free Trade

If, as expected, Congress does not pass the administration's North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by adjournment time in early October, the President will use the impasse to bash Bill Clinton and Capitol Hill. Clinton, also a supporter of NAFTA, has been reluctant to lobby for the measure because the labor unions which back him, including the AFL-CIO, say NAFTA would export jobs to Mexico. □

Reflections

by Lee Teter



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By Way Of Election

"...to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation...."

—Preamble to The American Legion Constitution

BARRETT-DAVIS-WATSON Post 233 of Loganville, Ga., may have found an answer to voter apathy: Free food.

Everyone in Loganville who registers to vote through Post 233, will receive a complimentary \$10 dinner, courtesy of the Post.

This is only one example of The American Legion's commitment to voter participation through its "Get Out The Vote" program.

"Legionnaires from all across the nation strengthen our democracy by encouraging Americans to vote," says Gary W. Sammons, Chairman of the Legion's Americanism Commission.

"Our Get Out The Vote program, in various forms, has been a driving force in community involvement for over 72 years," Sammons says. "And it's still one of the most effective ways to get people to the polls."

The Legion's Get Out The Vote program grew out of a mandate from the 1920 National Convention that called for "Legion men to become qualified voters and fully discharge their patriotic duty." Over the years, the Legion expanded the program to include all citizens, not just Legionnaires.

"We make ourselves a presence at most public meetings here in Utah," says Elmer S. Pickett, Utah's 7th District Commander and Adjutant of Post 90, St. George, Utah. "We try to spend most of our time on programs and not on membership drives."

'Get Out The Vote' urges Americans to participate in our most fundamental right: free and fair elections.



"In our monthly bulletin, we encourage voting at all levels—town, city, county, state and national elections," Pickett explains. "We also offer transportation to polling places for folks who need it."

RICCAI Priddy of Post 81, Litchfield, Ky., also works on getting out the vote. As Department Junior Activities Chairman, Priddy uses people-power to mobilize voters.

"Legionnaires at our Post hand out buttons and brochures encouraging people to vote," she says. "And we have a basket of Get Out The Vote buttons in the local bank."

"People just don't think they can make a difference. But we tell them that they can."

That's the same message Sanford Bailey, Adjutant of Post 69 in Robinson, Ill., delivers in his town.

"There is an increased interest in

voting now that veterans benefits have come under fire," Bailey points out. "A lot of World War II vets are at the age when they need VA hospitals—and it's difficult to get treatment."

Bailey's Post tries to sell the importance of voting through speeches and by enclosing a letter urging people to vote with all new membership cards.

"I also see a growing interest in voting because veterans benefits are under attack," says Donald H. Desch, Department Vice Commander and 1st District Commander of Wisconsin.

"In the past, we've sponsored candidate conferences at the District level for Legionnaires to see what their choices are," Desch says. "We just let the candidates talk, and don't take any questions from the floor. That way it's less partisan."

While most Legion Posts try to sell the idea of voting, Post 233 in Loganville, Ga., offers a reward.

"What we do is give everybody who registers to vote a \$10 meal in one of two local restaurants," says Post 233 Commander Robert E. "Bobby" Boss.

This is the first year that Post 233 has offered a food-for-voting deal.

"So far, 1,100 people have taken advantage of this offer," Boss says. "And we plan to continue it next year."

"A lot of Posts couldn't afford to do this program, but for us—it pays off," Boss says. "People go to the polls and we attract members from the publicity that the program gets. In a town of 3,100 people, we have 560 members."

Legion Posts nationwide have unique ways of interacting with their communities at election time. These are just a few examples.

But just how successful is the Legion's Get Out The Vote program?

According to a recent survey, some 89.5 percent of Legionnaires vote in

Please turn to page 65



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VA AT THE CROSSROADS

THE BUILDING seems tired and weathered, perhaps like the veterans it once served. The windows are dark and some are broken, and stare sightlessly across a landscape of wind-whipped paper and leaves. The interior is littered with broken bottles and the detritus of human suffering.

Faded letters above the front desk read: THROUGH THESE DOORS PASS THE FINEST VETERANS IN THE WORLD.

Is this a gloomy reminder of what once was? Not yet, but it could be. VA today is fast reaching a crossroads in its history, and soon must decide what course it will follow.

Since the late 70s, VA's budget has been squeezed and squeezed by Congress, requiring VA to reduce and reduce the number of veterans eligible for medical treatment (See "VA's Narrowing Door," February 1992).

More recently, VA's budget has been held at a sustaining level, barely enough to do the day-to-day job. In fact, for fiscal year 1992, VA suffered a \$900 million shortfall: Its budget was almost \$1 billion less than it needed to care for its patients.

Few in Congress expect VA's budget to grow much more than inflation, if that, in the foreseeable future, according to Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

"VA has been subjected to a systematic erosion by the very government that created it," says Chet Stellar, Chairman of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission (VA&R).

According to Stellar, it is relatively easy to see what the VA future holds, if nothing changes:

- VA's medical-care funding, when compared to overall health costs, will



*VA health care—
One road leads
to destruction;
the other one,
to survival.*

• • • • •

continue to shrink.

- To make ends meet, VA will be forced to close additional hospital wings—most of them surgical wings. The VA inspector general's office has listed 33 hospitals where at least the surgical wings may be closed. More will probably follow.

- As the federal budget tightens, we can expect Congress to again narrow eligibility standards. They will drive more veterans out of the system by limiting even further the amount of money they can earn and still be eligible for VA health care. The lower rated service-connected veterans—the 0 to 30 percent disabled—could be dropped from mandatory care.

- VA medical care will deteriorate. As more and more veterans are denied care, doctors will perform fewer surgeries and specialized medical proce-

dure, and their skills will suffer.

- VA will continue to shut the door on more than 480,000 veterans suffering from the full ravages of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). VA has neither the staff nor the facilities to treat even a small portion of them.

- Due to continued shortages of VA staff, veterans filing claims and appeals can expect even longer waits. Currently, some veterans report waiting as long as three years in getting their claims through the system.

"No aspect of veterans benefits has escaped untouched," says VA&R Chairman Stellar. "Surgery, outpatient and inpatient care, nursing care, rehabilitation; even the GI home loan program and veterans' burial benefits have felt the bite of Congress' budgetary ax."

Although the federal debt is at an all-time high, the public is demanding relief from Congress from soaring health-care costs. Dozens of health-care proposals are wending their way through committees on Capitol Hill.

Some go so far as to do away with VA medical care, such as H.R. 1300. While the chances of this bill passing are remote, it indicates a sentiment among some lawmakers that VA health care is unnecessary.

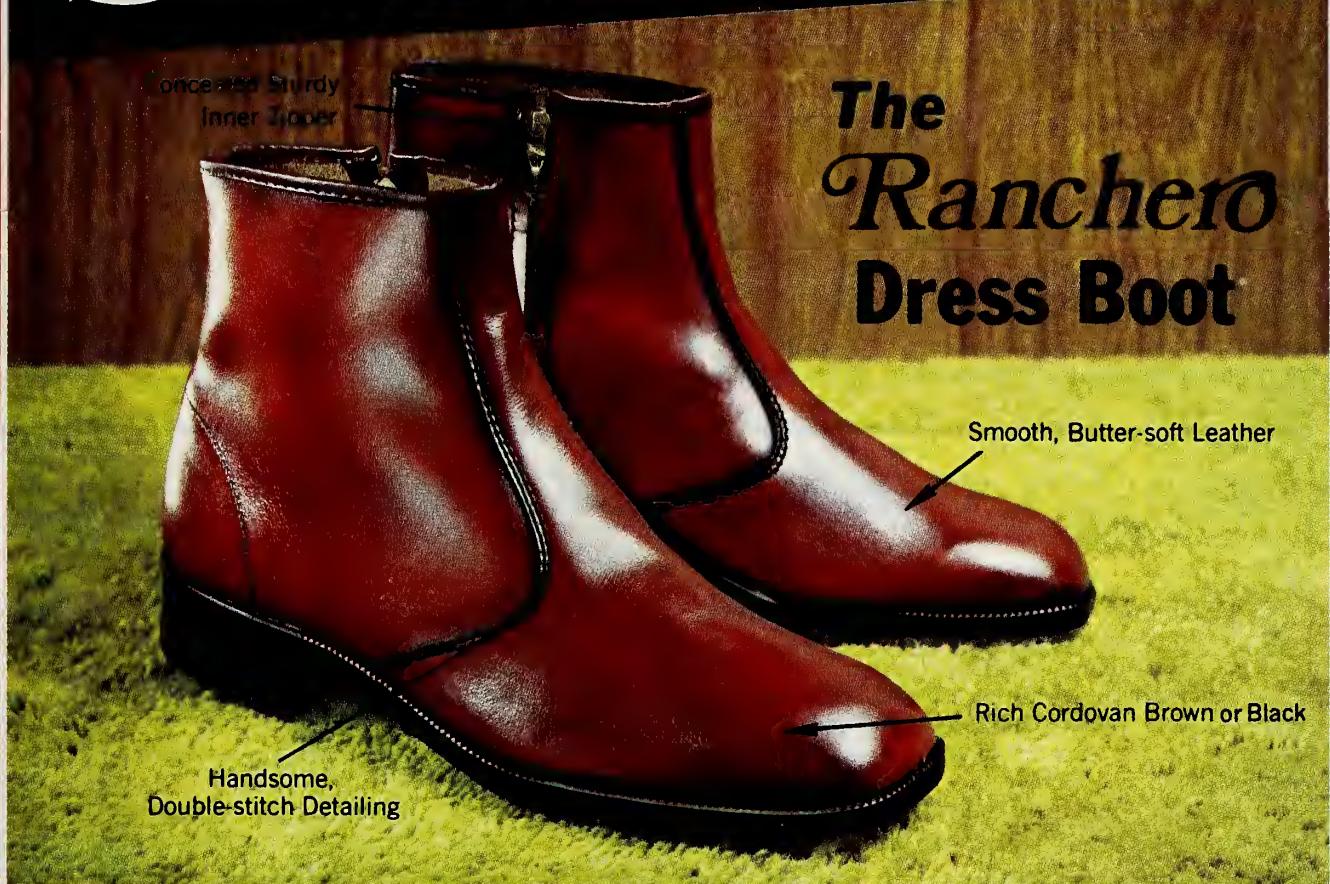
This attitude has led to today's inadequate budgets for VA. "If VA continues down this path," says American Legion National Commander Roger A. Munson, "it is doomed. VA is an easy target. Anyone who thinks Congress can't or won't touch VA had better take a hard look at recent history.

"No one dreamed that Congress would dare attack Social Security, yet today proposals are being seriously discussed to tax Social Security income for recipients who earn above a specific level. To put it bluntly, there are no sacred cows and VA is at risk."

At its Spring Meeting last May, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion voted to support the proposed legislation. "Please turn page

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American Legion drafted a comprehensive plan to reform VA health care. Among other things, the Legion wants nonservice-connected veterans to have access to VA via third party payments, including private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or other federal programs.

There are other paths that offer VA an opportunity to survive and open its doors to more veterans. Future prospects for a vital and healthy VA depend on a major influx of new cash.

Some of the ideas suggested by the Legion and others include:

- Allowing VA to make home loans to veterans. The income generated from the loans could help support

other VA programs for veterans, such as medical care.

- Permitting veterans to simply pay VA for their treatments, but at rates far below private health-care fees.

- Rewriting the law to allow Medicare—the government's contributory health-care program—to reimburse VA for treatment and care of Medicare-eligible military retirees and nonservice-connected veterans.

The idea to reimburse VA with Medicare funds originated with the Rural Health Care Initiative (RHCI), which VA and the Department of Housing and Human Services (HHS) tried to push through Congress this

year.

Although The American Legion was instrumental in defeating RHCI because it would have allowed nonveterans to be treated in VA hospitals, the proposal to use Medicare funds to reimburse VA is a sound one, according to Stellar.

"But RHCI's plan to allow civilians to be treated at VA medical facilities is intolerable while veterans continue to be turned away at VA hospitals."

"However, why not treat Medicare-eligible veterans at VA hospitals and allow Medicare to defray the cost of their treatment?" Stellar asks, referring

Please turn to page 54

THE VA'S SICKBED

By G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery

THE DEPARTMENT of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system has never confronted a more critical watershed in its 62-year history than it does today. The course it charts over the next few years will determine its very survival.

Considering the perennially deficient budgets and dwindling resources that have affected both its productivity and its reputation, considering that VA has become little more than a political afterthought in discussions of national health policy, the public and policy makers must be made aware of the department's contributions to medicine and what it can offer to help meet the nation's complex health care needs.

VA must not stand on the curb and watch the health-care reform parade march past.

To date, national health-care reform proposals have either slighted VA or called for its dismantling. It is clear that VA cannot exist in a vacuum. It must either become more deeply interrelated with private-sector medicine and other government health-care programs or face a gradual shutdown.

The writer is a U.S. representative from Mississippi and chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. This article is reprinted with permission from The Washington Post.

To survive, VA must retool its resources, restructure its priorities and look beyond its primary patient population. It can still be independent, but it must be a player.

To some veterans, such proposals will seem an act of heresy, but the hard truth is that if VA is going to be around in the 21st century, all sides of the so-called Iron Triangle—VA, Congress and the national veterans' service organizations, as well as

individual veterans—must reassess the system's mission and begin thinking of VA as a part of the whole health-care solution.

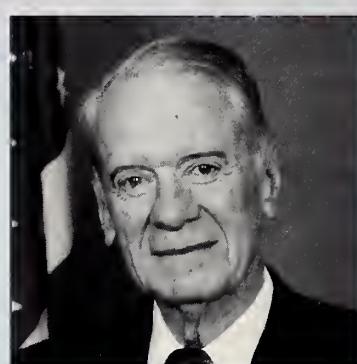
Obviously, as our Armed Forces are reduced in size, fewer veterans will be coming out of them in the future. By the turn of the century, the veterans' population of 26.6 million will likely have declined to 24.1 million, and within 40 years after that to around 13 million. Judging by current VA hospital usage, only about 10 percent of those veterans will actually obtain VA medical care.

Thus, it will be increasingly difficult in the future to defend the continuance of certain VA medical programs. It won't be a question of money, but of quality—not enough patients for health professionals to maintain their proficiency, or enough to justify certain services, units or entire medical facilities and, ultimately perhaps, the system itself.

Purely hypothetical, right? Well, the VA inspector general recently targeted 33 surgical units for closing because of underutilization. It's beginning, it's here and it's now.

Though the size of the general veteran population will decline, there will be a dramatic increase in the number of older veterans. In the next eight years, two-thirds of America's male population over age

Please turn to page 54



REP. G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY
Chairman, Veterans Affairs Committee

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MURDER, MAYHEM AND THE MOTHER TONGUE

When writers get tangled in syntax, it can be chaos. This wordsmith offers three basic rules: Look it up! Look it up! Look it up!

By James J. Kilpatrick

WITH THE collapse of Iraqi resistance in Operation Desert Storm, allied troops at last were able to enter Kuwait City. The Associated Press (AP) was right on the scene as the con-

voy rolled in. A correspondent described the return in an unintentionally vivid sentence:

"The wench on an American Humvee was pulling a barrier from the road."

Ah, those valiant women of the U.S. Army! Those of us who hunt homophones love nothing more than to read of a hardworking wench, for surely a wench has greater appeal than a winch.

Then there was a news item in a North Carolina weekly about a local bowler, Scott Brazell. He had just bowled a perfect game, and he was feeling great about one of the world's oldest sports. He wanted to defend it.

Long-time political commentator James J. Kilpatrick also writes a nationally syndicated newspaper column about language.

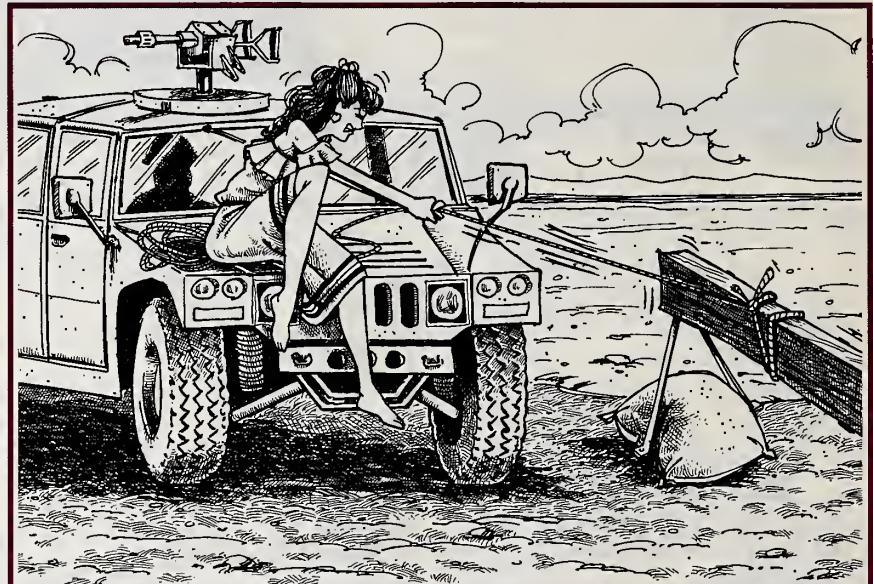


ILLUSTRATION BY CASTEL LANDO

WHICH WENCH?—Is this what the Associated Press meant when it wrote about a "wench on an Humvee"?

Many people, he said, "mistakenly associate bowling with rancorous behavior."

That was how he was quoted, anyhow, in the *Horry Independent*. It's a fair assumption that the sports writer didn't mean *rancorous* (bitterly resentful, malicious). He meant *raucous* (rowdy, disorderly). He reached for the right word but somehow he found the wrong word. It happens all the time.

MEAN it. This kind of thing truly happens all the time, and it happens in the most respectable publications. My file of Wrong Words holds a heap of clippings from *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*. I get citations from *Newsweek* and *Time*. Readers of my weekly column send me 5,000 horrid examples a year of the abuse of the English language. Some of them are funny. Viewed another way, all of them are sad.

Take the word *epithet*.

It's not what might fairly be called a hard word. An *epithet* is an insult. Now comes the *Seattle Times* with an article lauding Thomas J. Murphy, newly installed as the city's Catholic archbishop. He succeeded one predecessor whose forte was to build buildings and another who won affection for raising consciousness. The writer asked a rhetorical question:

"What will be Murphy's epithet?"

Epithet? Aaargh! The same startling confusion turned up in *The Washington Post* one December, in a first-person piece about adding something different to Christmas gifts. Said the writer: "I've told my husband he's getting a fat book about the Middle East this year. I'll write teasing epitaphs on the package to see if he can figure out what it's all about."

Epitaph? Yuccck! An epitaph is what one puts on a tombstone. Presumably the writer meant *epigram*, a witty saying tersely expressed. It cer-

Please turn to page 68

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The Secret of Building a POWERFUL MEMORY

It's a real tragedy. So many people seem to grow older instead of staying young.

My brother Jim and his petite wife Nancy worked hard and saved up for years for early retirement. Their dream was to see the U.S.A. from the big windows of their own RV vehicle. This modest and generous couple even joined a vacation club and made short trips with friends for some months before retirement.

Finally the big day arrived. Jim and Nancy packed the RV with six months of provisions and dropped by to say good-bye to my wife and I, and our kids, before embarking on the well-earned adventure they had been planning for, it now seemed, as long as I could remember.

As soon as they sat down at the kitchen table, I noticed at once Jim seemed tired and drowsy. Even during the excitement, I saw he really seemed exhausted. "Did you get enough sleep last night?", I asked. "What's that?", he replied confusedly. "I'm afraid Jim hasn't been hearing too well," Nancy confided. "The doctor says it's poor circulation. And it's causing other problems for him. His memory loss is most noticeable. And he gets a ringing in his ears; I see his eyesight failing. Together with a heart problem he suffered two years ago, I'm concerned with his allergies which act up all the time now. We've dreamed and worked so hard for this trip...it's a shame Jim is so 'out of it'."

"Where did I put my road map, Nancy?", Jim asked. "Honey, don't you remember...you put it under the driver's seat where you'd be sure to find it." She gave me a tearful look of worry.

I confess I was worried about them as they took off. And I didn't stop worrying as I read the postcards they sent from various stops along the way. About a week into the trip Nancy wrote to say they were thinking about giving it up and returning home because of Jim's declining health. Then, mysteriously, the postcards stopped coming.

Six weeks later I received a postcard from the West Coast. "Our apologies," it began, "we've been having too much fun to write. Hope the kids are fine. We're going to add on another leg. See you in six weeks."

I was stunned. What could have

changed so drastically? My answer came when Nancy and Jim pulled into the driveway six weeks to the day after I'd received that hurried card. Jim leapt from the driver's seat and shook my hand with such a strong grip that I almost went to my knees. His boyhood grin was back. Jim's eyes sparkled and he looked lean and strong: well-rested and healthy.

"What's going on with you two?", I asked Nancy behind his back. "You are just about to hear all about it," she replied.

As we poured coffee and gathered around the kitchen table again, the story came out. Nancy and Jim had stopped at KOAs and state park campgrounds along the way, meeting other travelers and vacationers. They got to know one very interesting couple during one of their stops...an author specializing in medical subjects and his beautiful Oriental wife. While somewhat older than Nancy and Jim, the four became immediate friends. During their first evening together, Jim and Nancy learned about the author's latest work *GINGKO/The Anti-Aging Nutrient You Can Use*. During that evening they also discovered the "key" to restoring Jim's healthy life back to him.

Gingko Biloba, they learned, is the oldest tree on earth...a survivor of the Ice Age. It's indigenous to China but now decorates streets and boulevards all over the world. It is totally resistant to blight and pollution; its leaves are a food substance which provide treatment for a remarkable host of ailments, particularly those of circulatory problems which afflict middle-aged and older people.

Hundreds of hospital, clinical, and lab tests worldwide have shown Gingko Biloba extract to widen blood vessels to the brain, heart, extremities of legs and arms, ears and eyes. It is even said to fight organ transplant rejection better than the traditional pharmaceutical medication.

"That friendship was the beginning of a living miracle for my Jim," Nancy told us. "Our new friends had several copies of the book, so we bought one." They had also found a place where they could buy Gingko Biloba extract. You see, finding bona fide Gingko Biloba in stores can be difficult. Although sales in Europe now total up to \$500 million a year, making it perhaps the leading

prescribed medicine there, you can't find it just everywhere in the U.S. And, when you do, you have to be very careful to get the standardized 24% extract. The WorldLife Company has it. Write: P.O. Box 30665-BH, Albuquerque, NM 87190. Nancy says they were going to be at the campground for a couple of weeks, so they called WorldLife at 1 (800) 451-2194 to ask them if they took Mastercard/Visa. They said sure, so Nancy ordered Jim a 30-day supply for only \$14.95, plus \$2.00 delivery.

After Jim had been taking the extract their friends left them, for about six weeks, he was a new man. His memory loss had been reversed; his dizziness gone. Jim's mind is sharp again, and he's much more sociable. You'll find in the book that Gingko is easily digested, so it enters the bloodstream quickly. Three tablets a day keep the blood levels just right. And, unlike the blood thinners and other man-made drugs Jim had taken for his circulation, Gingko Biloba doesn't merely increase circulation in one part of the body by stealing blood from the other parts. It NORMALIZES blood flow throughout the body.

"There is only one problem with this Gingko stuff," Jim grinned with a twinkle in his eye. "It makes me feel so young that I end up chasing Nancy around the bedroom. And the one in our camper is too small. So, we're trading for a bigger RV and hitting the road again next weekend".

Well, needless to say, I was overwhelmed by the changes in my brother Jim. And I want to share this electrifying news with as many people as I can. I contacted the author of the powerful little book *GINGKO/The Anti-Aging Nutrient You Can Use* and put him together with my friends at American Surveys. The rest is history. Today you can send for a copy for yourself at low cost.

Gingko is astonishing! Discover the help this simple preventative brings for heart attack, stroke, memory loss, impotence, deafness, and blindness caused by circulatory problems, asthma, dizziness, and other conditions.

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SCREEN VICTORIES

By David Krauss

THE 12 BEST MOVIES OF WORLD WAR II

"PATTON"—George C. Scott's 1970 Oscar-winning portrayal of this controversial general brought a legend to life.

MOVIE STILL ARCHIVES

WORLD WAR II was the best thing that ever happened to Hollywood. Movie studios punched up the home-front war effort, furthered their patriotic public image, and made mountains of money doing it. □ At Warner Brothers, the war propelled profits from \$2.75 million in 1940 to \$19.5 million in 1946. The subject remains financially lucrative today. □ Why such unprecedeted success? In the 1940s, war movies gave the public what the newsreels didn't—the human side of the conflict—and presented it on an accessible level. Although most were shot on studio property, they still captured the epic scale of America's involvement, boosted morale and connected the home front to the war effort. □ Sadly, realism

"MISTER ROBERTS"—From left, Jack Lemon, James Cagney, Henry Fonda and William Powell in a classic Navy comedy of life far behind enemy lines.

often was sacrificed for propaganda. Only in the late 1940s did filmmakers begin reflecting on the war's issues and producing uncompromising depictions of overseas events. By 1970, however, introspection evolved into excess with a string of bloated blockbusters that relied more on star power than production values.

The following pictures are, in my opinion, the 12 best U.S.-made films about the American experience in World War II. With often brutal honesty, they captured the essence of those times. Years later, they still hit home.

These dozen titles, all available on video cassette, survive the test of time and remain powerful, moving and entertaining experiences, even after repeated viewings. Here's looking at them, kids.

Guadalcanal Diary (1943) (CBS Fox Video, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036): This gritty, low-budget drama detailing the landing of the first U.S. Marines on Guadalcanal starkly shows that men are "only tiny particles caught up in the giant whirlpool of war."

Through frank treatments of tragedy and triumph, the film paints a realistic picture of day-to-day survival, while also focusing on small pleasures that lift morale.

Lloyd Nolan, William Bendix and Anthony Quinn play men who honestly express their fears and doubt about risking their lives.

This Is The Army (1943) (Good Times Home Video, 401 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10019): Irving Berlin's flag-waving songfest raked in \$8.5 million on its initial release (equivalent to more than \$50 million today) and at the time ranked behind only "Gone With the Wind" as America's top grossing movie.

George Murphy, Ronald Reagan, Kate Smith, Frances Langford and even Berlin himself appear, with 350 genuine Army servicemen hammering home the message that "sometimes a song or a smile is just as vital to an army as food."

Free-lance writer David Krauss writes about films for regional and national publications.



MOVIE STILL ARCHIVES

The Purple Heart (1944) (CBS Fox Video): Some critics call this fact-based drama racist due to its diabolical portrait of the Japanese. But despite stereotypes, "The Purple Heart" packs an emotional wallop as it chronicles an American air crew's trial on a trumped up Japanese war crimes charge.

The courageous pilots withstand pressure to reveal military secrets and endure mental and physical torture as a result.

They Were Expendable (1945) (MGM/UA Home Video), 1350 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019: Far from the typical John Wayne war flick, this fluid and poetic film finds the Duke supporting Robert Montgomery in the true story of the gradual acceptance of PT boats as viable combat vehicles.

Set against the backdrop of the falling Philippines, the material's convincing treatment results from the war experience of both Montgomery and director John Ford, whose telling close-ups of teenage soldiers remind viewers that crusty character actors weren't the only ones fighting.

A Walk In The Sun (1945) (Good Times Home Video): Finely etched character portraits highlight this diary of a day in the life of an infantry division landing at Salerno, Italy. Director Lewis Milestone brilliantly depicts the boredom, nervous tension, idle chatter and insecurity that occupied such a large chunk of a soldier's time.

Dana Andrews, Richard Conte and Lloyd Bridges espouse plenty of insightful philosophy, while Milestone effectively uses sound and reaction shots to simulate war maneuvers. This adds much more suspense and realism

THE WAR WAS the best thing that ever happened to Hollywood. Its great films captured those years.

"TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH"—Gregory Peck played a general who suffered because he had to send men to die.



MOVIE STILL ARCHIVES

compared to Hollywood's more elaborate recreations.

The Best Years Of Our Lives (1946) (Embassy Home Entertainment, 1901 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067): "I don't care if it doesn't make a nickel," producer Samuel Goldwyn remarked. "I just want every man woman and child in America to see it!"

This moving, truthful account of three returning GIs and their painful readjustment to small-town life capped

seven Oscars by proving that personal battles are often tougher than the toughest military test. Veterans and civilians alike can identify with the emotions of the memorable characters.

Twelve O'Clock High (1949) (CBS Fox Video): Few war films examine the burden of command and its often debilitating effect on military leaders. This one, the finest of the lot, shows the stress and strain of jeopardizing men's lives day after day.

In one of his best performances, Gregory Peck portrays a callous general who suffers a nervous breakdown when he becomes overly attached to the crews who fly daylight missions over Germany. The general's split loyalties between military duty and human compassion create a complex, three-dimensional por-

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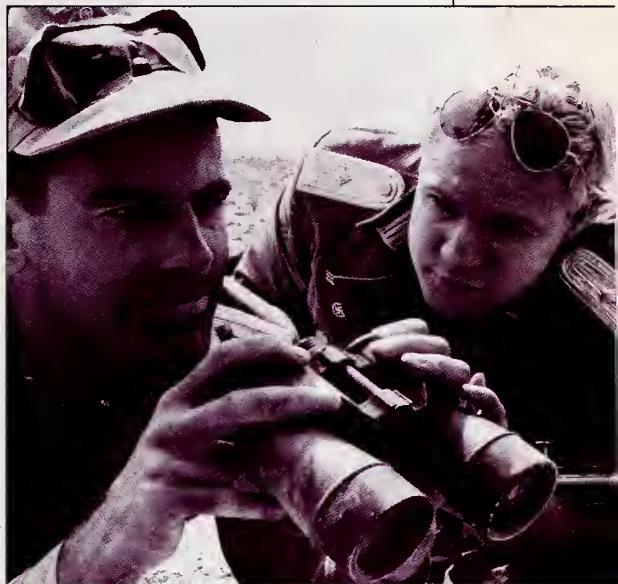


"THE LONGEST DAY"—John Wayne, top, and 472 U.S. GIs simulated the D-Day invasion.

"THE YOUNG LIONS"—Marlon Brando, far right, portrayed a Nazi with a conscience.

"STALAG 17"—William Holden, below, center, as a cynical POW in a German camp.

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PARAMOUNT PICTURES



CAR WARS

CAN AMERICA'S AUTO INDUSTRY BE SAVED?

By Edward J. Sullivan

THE AMERICAN automobile industry is in the midst of a fierce competitive struggle with foreign automakers that will determine its long-term viability.

More than Big Three profits and fat executive paychecks are at stake. Jobs, American industrial prestige and the rate of long-term U.S. economic growth are in jeopardy.

Furthermore, the success or failure of the American automobile industry to meet these competitive threats may provide an indication of other American industries' ability to withstand similar challenges.

The foreign competitive threat has arisen from an unlikely source—America's own heartland.

Japanese automakers have voluntarily restricted the volume of direct passenger-car exports to the U.S. market since 1981. To increase their access to the world's most lucrative auto market, Japanese manufacturers have built seven assembly plants in the United States.

Today, one out of every five cars made in the United States is driven off

U.S. automakers are battling for the U.S. market, as foreign firms close in for the kill.



a Japanese-owned assembly plant.

Despite their location, many of these plants will contribute nearly as much to Japan's economy as to ours. Most of the high value-added components of these cars, such as engines and transmission, come from Japan. At best, Japanese automobile assembly plants buy only 60 percent of their parts locally, compared to more than 95 percent by a typical Big Three manufacturer.

These parts-sourcing decisions diminish the contribution of the Japanese-owned automobile assembly plants to the U.S. economy. Indeed, one third of the \$30 billion automotive-trade deficit with Japan is attributed to automotive-parts imports.

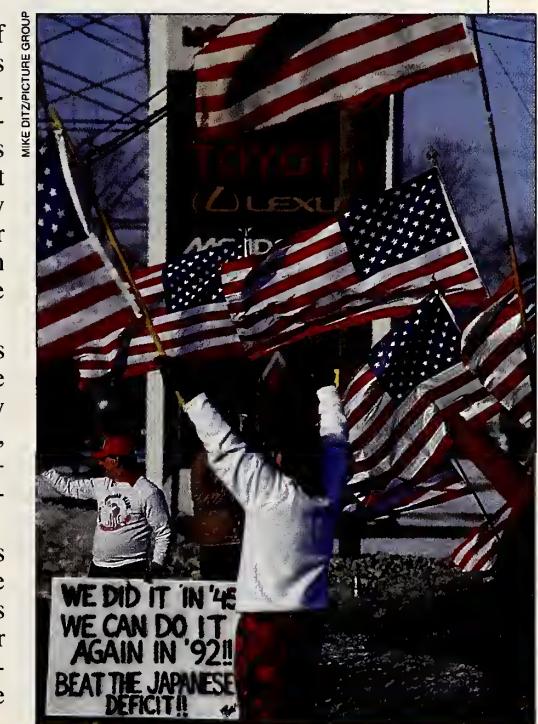
The American auto industry has been aggressively countering the Japanese threat. The industry has spent more than \$11 billion per year during the past five years to modernize plants and facilities and rejuvenate its product offerings.

To improve its cost competitiveness, the industry has shed more than 125,000 jobs since 1986. The

American industry's cost-cutting strategy also includes procurement of parts from low-wage foreign sources. Finally, to offset declining sales, American manufacturers have led the way with aggressive price discounting and cut-rate financing.

Despite these actions, Big Three automakers have been losing the battle for the American market. During the past five years, American automakers have lost seven points in market share.

Even more alarming, the Big Three



Edward J. Sullivan analyzes the auto industry, especially U.S.-Japan automotive trade, for Congress, the U.S. government and private investment and management firms. He is with Wexford Management Consultants in Merion, Pa.

CAR WARS

have been gradually retreating in market segments where competition with the Japanese is most severe.

Chrysler and General Motors, for example, no longer build their own subcompacts. They import these cars from Japan and Korea. Ford's subcompact was designed and engineered by Mazda. In the compact market segment, the Big Three's production-capacity commitment has been cut by 30 percent during the past five years.

Keep in mind the Japanese are rapidly moving upscale and recently introduced new products that are now in a position to attack the Big Three's heart and soul—the midsized family-car market.

In all likelihood, American automakers will continue to lose market share over the next several years.

In recognition of this new reality, General Motors recently announced that it will permanently close 26 plants and lay off 75,000 more workers within the next four years. Ford and Chrysler are expected to follow with plant closings and worker layoffs of their own.

The threat to the American auto industry can hardly be exaggerated. Within 10 years, competitive forces could force a major shrinkage of the Big Three—perhaps eliminating one. Furthermore, the American automotive parts industry, which constitutes

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VETVOICE

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Do you believe America's auto industry can be saved?

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CHRYSLER CORP.



THEIR BABY—A team of design, engineering and manufacturing experts guided the 1993 Chrysler Concorde from concept through production.

CHRYSLER

R E S P O N D S

The American buyer will see better quality U.S. cars.

*By Lee A. Iacocca
Chairman & CEO*

AFTER reading Edward Sullivan's article on whether the American auto industry can be saved, I felt like one of those people running for President.

He dug for every bad slip we made 20 years ago. And he found a few, because we made a few. But he forgot to ask a question voters are asking this year: "What have you done for me lately?"

Start with the *sticker*. It's the Japanese automakers who are raising prices, not us. On average, prices on Japanese vehicles are up 5.9 percent in the last year. Chrysler's are up 2.2 percent.

Look at *quality*. Any gap there was between Japanese and American cars is all but gone. That's because since 1987 the quality of the Big

Three cars has improved 12 percent, while the quality of Japanese vehicles has remained flat.

Look at *design*. This month, Chrysler has just come out with new midsized sedans—Chrysler Concorde, Dodge Intrepid and Eagle Vision—featuring a design that moves the windshield forward and the rear wheels back. So now a midsized car has the interior space of a full-sized car.

Look at *safety*. There's no question who the leader is. American car makers. Chrysler was the first company to make driver's-side air bags standard in all our American-built cars; first to put them in a minivan; first in a sport-utility; and in our new midsized cars we have dual driver and passenger air bags as standard equipment. The Japanese can't say that.

The Big Three have invested \$131 billion in new plants and products in the past 10 years to get more competitive. Just in the last year, Chrysler has opened a new Jeep plant in Detroit, a new minivan plant in Europe, and a new tech center north of Detroit for 7,000 people.

And we did all that with a recession going on. Think about what we can do during good times.

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GENERAL MOTORS

R E S P O N D S

A foreign-owned U.S. auto industry would eliminate jobs.

By Robert C. Stempel
Chairman & CEO

IN GENERAL, Edward Sullivan is right on target when he talks about the importance of the American automobile industry to our national economy. The auto industry is the largest segment in the manufacturing sector of the U.S. economy, accounting for over a million jobs. That's one out of every seven jobs in America.

The auto industry uses 40 percent of the machine tools, 20 percent of the semiconductors, 20 percent of the aluminum, 20 percent of the glass and 12 percent of the steel consumed in this country.

If the domestic industry goes under, Americans will still have cars to drive. They may even be assembled in this country. But if foreign-based companies own the American automobile business, the higher-wage jobs, design, engineering, research and handling of

high-tech materials will end up somewhere else outside the United States.

Foreign ownership won't upgrade our country's productive capabilities. It won't train our work force or improve our global trade balance. It probably will erode our sophistication in research, design, engineering and high-wage production.

I take issue with Mr. Sullivan on several points, but on one in particular: General Motors does not support protectionist legislation. We have a long-standing position of opposing restraints or caps on imports. Among other things, such rules distort trade, investment and production. They tend to provide incentives to increase capacity in areas not covered by restraints.

The only real way to fight the challenge from Japan is for the American auto industry to become more competitive. The three domestic companies have been working very hard to do just that.

Although you wouldn't know it from the news reports, the U.S. industry is already producing high-quality vehicles that are fuel-efficient and offer outstanding levels of safety.

But it's apparent that the auto industry stands a better chance of remaining competitive if it gets some outside technical assistance. As a

Please turn to page 62



ENGINES OF CREATION—Each GM Saturn is built by a single, well-organized team, not by the usual assembly line of workers.

FORD

R E S P O N D S

Our goal in the 1990s is to be competitive all over the world.

By Harold A. Poling
Chairman & CEO

ICOULDN'T agree more that competition today in the U.S. automotive market is brutally fierce. But Ford Motor Company is meeting the challenge, and we have aggressive plans in place to ensure that our customers will be offered high-quality cars and trucks at prices that represent value.

Our goal in the 1990s is to compete worldwide to the fullest extent of our capabilities—just as we have been doing for the past 89 years. Our focus is on:

- Investing heavily in new cars, trucks and powertrains. Ford has spent \$28 billion over the past five years on new products, and we will spend at an even higher rate over the next five. We intend for every new entry in each market segment to be world class.

- While we are investing at record levels, we also are improving our efficiency and cost control. Ford reduced fixed costs by \$3 billion in the 18 months ending last year, and we are looking for another \$1 billion to remove this year.

- As efficiency improves, we also want to make Ford a great place to work. We're pushing management decisions down, emphasizing teamwork, maintaining and increasing our training and education, demanding excellence of execution, and conducting research and development on new technologies and techniques.

We're confident that our investments and product strategies will bring success in the years ahead. Already, we're seeing very favorable results in the way our customers have responded to our new cars and trucks.

Please turn to page 63

CAR WARS

half of all manufacturing jobs associated with the automotive industry, is in the midst of a violent shakeout.

While the American automotive industry is no longer the powerful force that it was back in the 1950s and 1960s, it would be a mistake to dilute the importance of the industry to the country's overall economy. Combined, last year's revenues of the Big Three nearly equaled the dollar value of Texas' entire economy. Additionally, one out of every 28 jobs in the U.S. economy can be directly attributed to the automotive industry.

Furthermore, it is important to realize that the American automobile industry is one of America's bridges from the smokestack to high-tech economy. It is natural tendency for free-market economies to mature and shed their smokestack industries in favor of cleaner, high-tech industries.

The automotive industry, however, is not a typical smokestack industry. Leading edge technologies may be among the keys to America's competitiveness during the next 50 years. Technologies such as advanced robotics and composite materials depend on the automotive industry to achieve world-class status.

The crucial battle for the American market that looms in the years ahead will not be waged in the factory or on the showroom floor. It will be fought in consumers' minds.

Certainly, American manufacturers must continue to improve plant, product, quality and cost efficiency. But believe it or not, American automobile manufacturers have made huge strides in each of these areas over the past five years. Nevertheless, nearly all consumer surveys, by a wide margin, suggest that car buyers believe Japanese manufacturers make better cars than their American counterparts.

No doubt consumers who in the past have been burned by a lemon, treated with indifference in the showroom, and outraged at the million-dollar compensation packages allotted to the chief executives will be slow to give the Big Three a second chance.

Due to past sins, a significant segment of the American car-buying pub-

lic will not even consider buying an American-made car.

Often the attributes of the car in terms of quality or appointments have nothing to do with consumers' preference for Japanese cars. Consider the following:

Toyota makes both the Toyota Corolla subcompact and the Geo Prizm for Chevrolet. The cars are identical in every way but one—the nameplate on the back. Nevertheless, the Corolla is selling far better than the Prizm—the inventory-to-sales ratio of unsold Prizms is nearly four times that of the Corollas.

THE buying psychology for a large portion of the public is so skewed against American-made automobiles that all of the Big Three's achievements at improving quality and rejuvenating product go unnoticed.

Experts are divided over exactly what should be done, if anything, to help the domestic auto industry. Some argue that every American job in the U.S. industry must be defended—if not by corporate competitiveness, then by import quotas and tariffs.

Other experts believe that the nation is best served by unfettered free markets in spite of the short and long-term risks to the U.S. economy created by continued erosion of the automobile industry.

In theory this may be true, but at great short-term trauma to the economy. Furthermore, totally free trade in the United States must be reciprocated in Japan. In reality, there are several problems with both these policy measures.

Protectionist policies ease the pressure on American automakers to maintain their hard-fought world-class competitiveness—regained only recently. It must be realized that consumers benefit from intense competition. Consumers suffer in terms of quality of product and prices when protectionist measures are enacted.

For example, the Gephardt Bill aimed at reducing the trade deficit with Japan could end up costing the average buyer of Japanese cars nearly a 30 percent premium (\$125 per month based upon average Japanese car prices and prevailing credit conditions). Domestic manufacturers in turn would be expected to raise their prices 10 percent to 15 percent (\$25 to \$55 per month based upon average American car prices and prevailing credit conditions).

It is particularly grating that such policies are advocated by the multimillion-dollar per year chief executives of the Big Three who know full well what the impact of these policies would be on the household budgets of the average American.

Finally, protectionist policies eventually doom the nation's economy to slower productivity growth and open the door to trade retaliation, all of which will slowly lead to a long-term economic slowdown.

Somehow, a balance must be achieved to maintain the benefits of intense competition without leading to the free-trade consequences of destructive competition. The only way this can be achieved is through policies that advocate the general principles of free trade and at the same time expand the U.S. car market.

The principles of free trade guarantee that competitive pressures will remain intact, assuring consumers product choice and high quality while keeping the lid on price increases. Market expansion eliminates, or at least delays, the destructive aspects of intense competition.

Free-trade market expansion of the U.S. auto market can be realized through new fiscal policy measures.

Please turn to page 62



ROUGH TIMES—Boris the Bulldog, the Flint, Mich., hockey team mascot, doesn't like Japanese cars.

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INSIDE THE GOVERNMENT MACHINE: PART 5

No one elected America's think tanks, but most of our leaders listen to them. They work in public and behind the scenes. How much power do they really have?



AN AURA of mystery surrounds the very subject of think tanks, with people mainly asking, "What are those people up to?"

They're up to a lot, scholar James Allen Smith discovered in his research on the researchers.

Think tanks have helped lay the groundwork for some of the most important changes in the policies and structure of the American government this century. The influence of their research and books, position papers and newspaper articles, seminars and Congressional testimony, never seems to stop growing.

James Allen Smith has been a university professor and think-tank scholar. His book, *The Idea Brokers: Think Tanks and the Rise of the New Policy Elite*, is a major

analysis of their power. Smith, now an adjunct professor at the New School for Applied Social Research, spoke with THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine for the fifth of our series, "Inside The Government Machine."

American Legion Magazine: Mr. Smith, Washington insiders often claim that think tanks are the real government policy-makers. Is that true?

James A. Smith: No, think tanks don't actually make policy. But the people who work in them do a great deal to shape the debate about public policy issues. And they shape that debate through several means—scholarly research, informal advising, and journalistic activities.

For instance, their experts write on newspaper commentary pages and contribute to the *McNeil-Lehrer NewsHour*, to National Public Radio programs or C-SPAN.

Q. What is a think tank?

A. "Think tank" is a curious American colloquialism, borrowed from World War II military jargon. It was used to describe a secure room where military planners could retreat to think and to plan strategy.

Q. How many think tanks are there in the USA?

A. By my best estimate, there are about 1,200 think tanks operating across the United States, many of them university-based.

In Washington, D.C., where we have probably the largest concentration, there are roughly 110 or 120. A half-dozen of these are large, with budgets in excess of \$10 million or \$12 million. Yet the typical think tank is much smaller, with a budget in six figures and perhaps a half-dozen staff members.

Q. What are some of the most noted?

A. The prototype in Washington is the Brookings Institution. It was set up in 1916 and over the years has had the most diversified policy research and publishing program.

The American Enterprise Institute (AEI), which was set up in 1943, has had a notable career exploring a range of economic problems and some foreign policy issues.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies, founded in 1962, has done good work in bringing together scholars, businessmen, people in Congress and the Executive Branch to examine strategic questions and work toward consensus on policy problems.

The Rand Corporation is the prototype of the contract research organization and is noted for military research and development.

Q. What public policies originated in think tanks and later became the law of the land?

A. Well, aside from specific policies, it's important to see a different kind of influence—a broader impact that doesn't necessarily translate into legislative action.

Think tanks over their history have acted to push government to become more expert. Take such organizations as the Bureau of the Budget, now the Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional Budget Office, even the Council of Economic Advisors—the very

HIGHLIGHTS

James A. Smith On...

Their rationale: "We have genuine distrust of permanent bureaucracies and civil servants, and have preferred experts outside government."

Their impact: "The deregulation of the airlines, energy and other industries was a direct consequence of private research centers."

Their true power: "In quiet conference rooms and seminars, think tanks can bring together people of diverse perspectives and hammer out a workable consensus. They can alter public opinion."

Their uniqueness: "They are essentially an American invention. New democracies in Latin America and Eastern Europe are looking to the American model, even the Japanese."



ROB CRANDALL/PICTURE GROUP

existence of these research and advisory agencies is a direct result of the influence that private think tanks have wielded outside of government.

Q. But how about legislative influence?

A. The first and best example of a specific think tank idea finding its way into law goes back to the very beginning of Brookings when its founders felt that budgeting procedures in the federal government were completely inadequate.

The Brookings staff drafted and helped to assure the passage of the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, and, in fact, staffed the Bureau of the Budget for a time while the government was setting it up.

In the 1940s, when policy makers were discussing the Marshall Plan, Brookings scholars again helped in setting

up the mechanisms for the administration of the plan. In the 1970s, the deregulation of the airlines, energy, and other industries was a direct consequence of research and policy decisions in a number of private research centers, especially Brookings and AEI.

In the 1980s, the Goldwater-Nichols Act dealing with defense organizations emerged out of discussions at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Q. Is this year's political campaign being fueled by think tank ideas to any extent?

A. Yes. Probably the best example is the idea of the flat tax. This can be traced back to the work of scholars at the Hoover Institution in California. Of course, as we've seen, those ideas were pretty badly distorted by the campaign.

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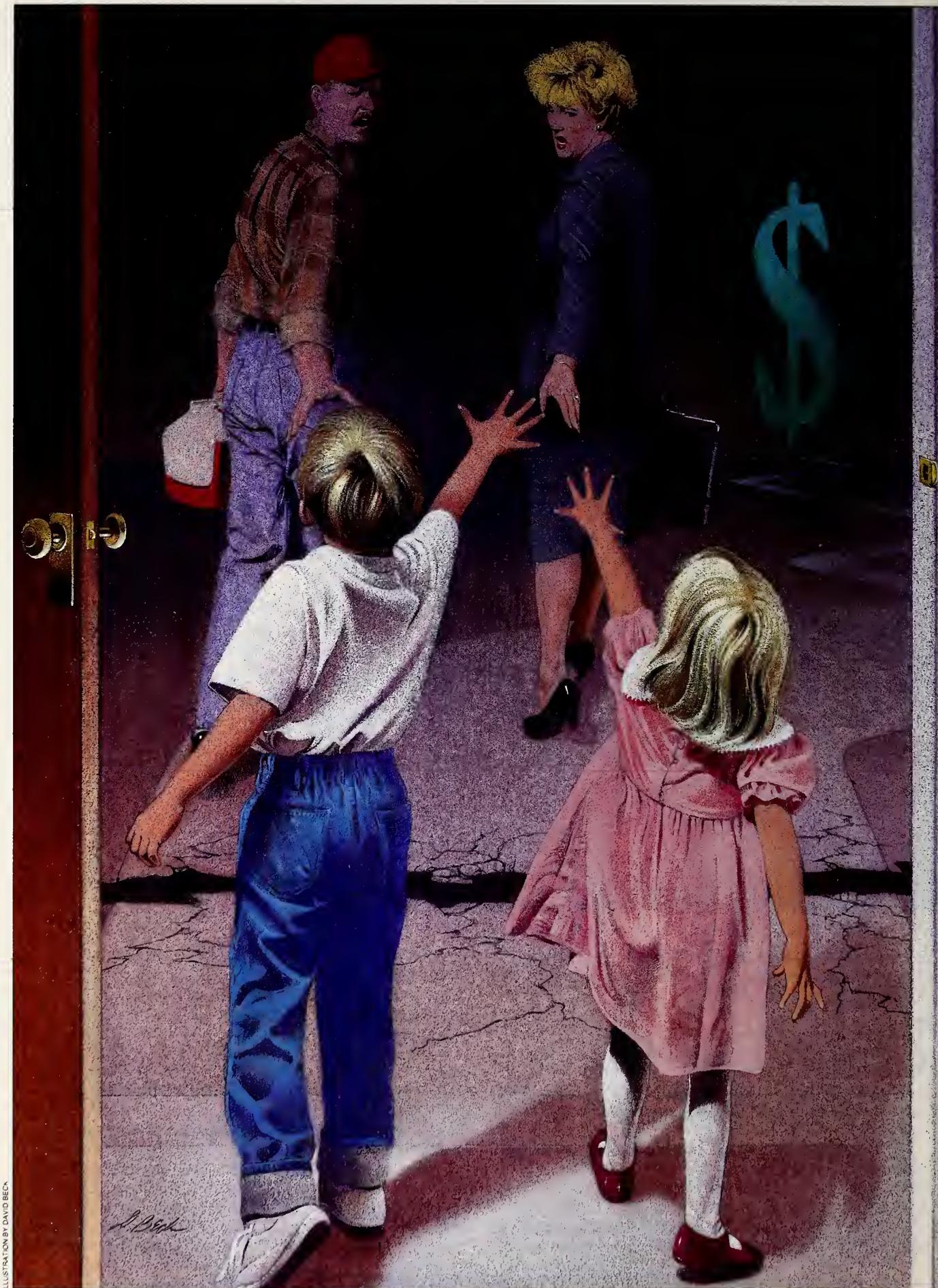


ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID BECK

The Family IN DANGER

*What hurts families?
High taxes,
stagnant wages,
poor schools.
Who's responsible?
The government.
Here's how it
can stop the pain
and start healing
America's families.*

By Robert Rector

HE AMERICAN family has fallen on hard times.

At one time every American generation had the reasonable expectation that it would enjoy a higher standard of living than

the previous generation. We expected to be better off than our parents, and our parents worked hard to see that we were.

It became a point of great personal pride when first- and second-generation American families—many of them headed by unskilled laborers with modest educations—were able to purchase their first homes, or were

TORN—In 1965, parents spent 30 hours a week with their children. For parents in 1985, family time dropped 40 percent, to 17 hours a week.

able to send their children to college.

But families today don't look ahead with the same optimism. Many fear they will be unable to match their parents' standard of living, let alone exceed it. For many, the American dream is fading.

Some of the family's problems have been caused by government neglect. More common, however, are the problems created by government itself, usually in an effort to solve some other problem. Social economists call this the "law of unintended consequences."

Consider family finances. For several decades families with children have seen their incomes increase more slowly than others in society. In fact, families with children are the lowest income group in America today. After taxes, their per capita income is lower than that of singles, elderly households and married couples without children.

Because they have more members, families have to stretch that limited income to meet their needs. Families with children face heavy expenses such as home mortgages—a cost not borne by most elderly—and saving for college—a cost avoided by both singles and the elderly.

Unlike their own parents, today's parents are plagued by an education system that leaves children knowledgeable about sex, drugs and getting in touch with their feelings. But don't ask them to calculate numbers, write a simple declarative sentence, or distinguish between right and wrong.

We can't look to Washington to solve these problems because Washington helped create them.

One way government has hurt is by over-taxing the family. While almost all Americans have been battered by rising taxes since World War II, fami-

lies with children have been whacked the hardest—their tax burden increasing faster than any other group in society.

In 1950, for example, the average family with two children paid just 2 percent of its income to the federal government in taxes. Today, the average family with two children turns over 24 percent of its earnings in federal income and Social Security taxes. When state and local taxes are added in, the tax burden grows to more than one-third of total income.

How much has it hurt?

LOOK at the numbers: If today's family paid the same effective tax rate that Ozzie and Harriet paid in 1950, it would have an additional \$8,120 in disposable income each year. Meanwhile, mortgage payments (principal and interest) on the typical, newly purchased single-family home in America now average about \$660 a month, or \$7,920 a year.

Thus, if federal tax rates hadn't increased so much over the last four decades, far more families would have been able to share in the American dream of home ownership.

But high taxes are not the only financial drag on U.S. families. Equally important is the slowdown in wage growth.

In earlier times, families with just one wage earner, typically the father, could expect to see their earnings rise

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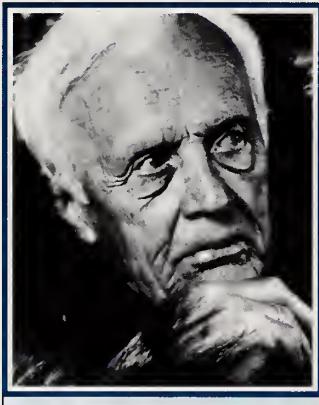
Robert Rector is a policy analyst specializing in welfare and family issues for The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. He is co-editor of Steering the Elephant: How Washington Works.

Who Really Discovered America?



Leif Ericson

Columbus is credited with discovering the New World. Not so, says this noted Norwegian explorer. He tells how he found the first evidence that Vikings landed and lived here 500 years before Columbus.



Helge Ingstad

IN MOST parts of the United States, Oct. 12 is still a legal holiday in honor of Christopher Columbus. But after almost five centuries of being revered as the man who discovered America, the Italian navigator has lost some of his luster and many of his supporters.

Experts today agree that Columbus certainly deserves credit for opening up the New World to exploration. But when it comes to discovering

America, they say, "Chris, baby, you just didn't make it in time. In fact, you were 500 years too late."

One of those experts challenging Columbus' claim is Norwegian explorer Helge Ingstad, 92, who in the 1960s uncovered America's first European settlement in Newfoundland.

In the following interview with THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, Ingstad tells us who did discover America and offers his proof.

American Legion Magazine: Everyone knows that "in 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue" and discovered America. Yet your research indicates that Viking seafarers did this 500 years earlier. What hard evidence proves this?

Helge Ingstad: In the 1960s, I discovered faint traces of

a very old settlement at L'Anse au Meadow on the northern coast of Newfoundland. My wife and I excavated this site over the next seven years — together with a team of archaeologists and other scholars from several countries.

Our findings, which are now accepted everywhere, are that the settlement was clearly Norse and undoubtedly the legendary Vinland of the old Norse sagas.

The site includes the remains of houses and artifacts that stem directly from the Viking Age. We also uncovered a smithy that was used to produce iron precisely according to the process used during that time in Norway.

Q. When was the settlement founded?

A. Radioactive-carbon dating, the artifacts and building layouts, plus our knowledge of that era, place the time just prior to 1000 A.D. This is exactly the period when the Icelandic sagas—which were finally put into written form some 200 years later—tell us that Leif Ericson sailed west from Greenland and discovered America.

This was 1,000 years ago and 500 years before Columbus' first voyage to the New World. Leif, incidentally, was the son of Eric the Red, a Norwegian who led a flotilla from Iceland to colonize Greenland in 986 A.D.

Q. And Indians could not have built such a settlement?

A. No, no chance whatever. Nor Eskimos, nor later fur traders, nor whalers.

The finds at L'Anse au Meadow are absolutely Norse. This has since been confirmed by authorities from the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of Canada. The site is now listed among the world's protected historical treasures.



Christopher Columbus

VOYAGER—Columbus failed to reach India and China but, his finds earned him fame.

Q. Could an experienced seaman like Columbus have known about the Icelandic sagas and the New World they describe far to the west of Europe?

A. There are no clues that he was aware of these things. And even if he did know, I doubt that the knowledge would mean much to him because the sagas and old Norse maps of that time dealt strictly with lands and sea routes to the north. Evidently, Columbus was convinced he would find India and China—not a whole new continent—by sailing directly west from Spain.

Q. So people can't maintain that Columbus was actually an Italian who sailed for Spain using ancient Norwegian maps?

A. No, I think this remarkable man was much more influenced by Marco Polo and his accounts of the Orient. And as a sailor, he couldn't have doubted that the world was truly round and that you didn't simply drop off into space somewhere out beyond the horizon.

Q. What made you conclude that the Vinland described in the Icelandic sagas was located in Newfoundland and not farther south along the East Coast of the United States?

Please turn to page 58

HIGHLIGHTS

Helge Ingstad On...

Christopher Columbus: "As a sailor, he couldn't have doubted that the world was truly round, and that you didn't simply drop off into space somewhere."

Viking settlers: "They returned to Greenland after a few years. Hostile Indians made life so difficult they had to leave. Unlike Columbus and later settlers, the Vikings had no firearms."

The first settlement in America: "The finds at L'Anse au Meadow are absolutely Norse. This has since been confirmed by the Smithsonian Institution."

Viking expeditions to America: "Scandinavia was overpopulated, and this led to heavy pressure to emigrate. There was also an inbred spirit of adventure and desire for plunder."

PETROCHEMICALS SUSPECTED IN GULF WAR ILLS

M

ANY DESERT STORM GIs may be suffering from petrochemical exposure, according to recent medical reports.

Medical experts say the complaints of memory loss and hair loss, aching joints and general fatigue match up with symptoms of hydrocarbon and lead poisoning.

Troops exposed to smoke and chemical contaminants of fires set in Kuwait may have an abnormally high level of hydrocarbons in their blood.

Lead poisoning may have been caused by leaded fuels which were extensively used during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Leaded gasoline, kerosene and diesel fuels were used in a variety of vehicles, and troops used

leaded fuel for cooking and heating, often in unventilated areas. Leaded fuels also were used by the Iraqis to set crude-oil fires.

The VA has called for a full registry to be created of personnel who served in the Gulf region. Legislation to create a registry has been introduced in both chambers of Congress. To date, more than 60,000 Gulf veterans have received VA treatment for a wide variety of ailments.

Shortly after the Gulf War, The American Legion advised Desert Storm troops to immediately report any medical problems to VA. The Legion wanted to ensure that the latest wartime veterans avoided what happened to thousands of Vietnam and WWII veterans. They had war-related

health problems years later, but waited too long to document their illnesses.

As a result of American Legion intervention, two Desert Storm veterans are currently undergoing medical tests at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Also, the Legion's Family Support Network has provided financial assistance to their families.

The Legion urges Gulf War GIs with health problems, no matter how minor, to complete VA Form 21-526, Veteran's Application for Compensation or Pension. A Legion Service Officer will help veterans fill out the form. This Legion assistance is available to all veterans, not just Legionnaires. Contact your nearest Legion Post for more information.

Jobs Available

Veterans with health-care skills who are victims of the military downsizing may find a career with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Some VA hospitals and clinics are in critical need of people with special medical skills.

According to Greg J. Haag, director of VA's Healthcare Development and Retention Office, there are jobs available for critical-care nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, physicians assistants, registered record-technicians, medical record personnel, respiratory therapists, dietetic technicians, medical technicians, medical technologists and diagnostic radiology technologists.

For more information, contact your nearest VA medical facility.

Merchant Marine Medals

Merchant Marine seamen of World War II, Korea and Vietnam are now eligible to receive medals in recognition for their service. In addition, a medal has been authorized for merchant seamen who served in the Persian Gulf in direct support of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Proper documentation must be presented before the medals are awarded.

For more information, write: Office

of Maritime Labor and Training, Maritime Administration, Attn: Awards, Rm. 7302, 400 7th St. SW, Washington, DC 20509,

Birth Defect Grant

The American Legion Child Welfare Fund has awarded the Association of Birth Defect Children (ABDC) a grant of \$9,300 to help support a registry of children with birth defects. Many Vietnam veterans' children suffer from birth defects, which the Legion believes are linked to Agent Orange. The Legion's grant will allow ABDC to expand its outreach and refer more parents of birth defect children to agencies that can provide help.

For more information, write: Association of Birth Defect Children, Inc., 5400 Diplomat Circle, Suite 270, Orlando, FL 32810, or call (407) 629-1466.

More Delays

Vietnam veterans suffering from peripheral neuropathy have already waited almost two years for VA to take action on the disease. Now there is more bad news: They will have to wait yet another year.

When VA released initial guidelines for service-connected disability com-

pensation for the disease last January, the Legion objected to the guidelines' restrictive language.

Now VA has told the National Academy of Science (NAS) to develop the guidelines for compensation. This means that final compensation rules will not be completed earlier than July 1993, according to Legion experts. As a result, veterans suffering from peripheral neuropathy probably will not receive disability compensation until late 1993.

The disease is linked to Agent Orange exposure and affects the nervous system.

To date, VA has not explained why it is taking so long to produce guidelines.

Guam Veterans

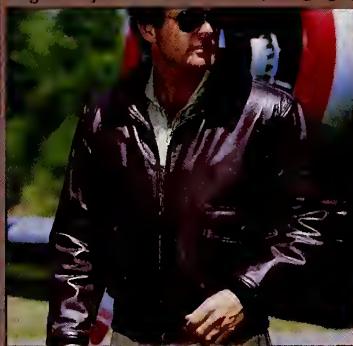
Researchers are looking for WWII veterans who served on Guam to help in a study that may establish a link between the island and two diseases—Parkinsonism-dementia complex and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The study is being conducted by scientists in Reno, Nev., in conjunction with VA. Veterans who were on Guam during World War II should contact: Susan F. Schweitzer, APDA Information and Referral Center, 1000 Locust St., Reno, NV 89520. □

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OHIO'S ROGER A. MUNSON ELECTED NATIONAL COMMANDER

NATIONAL COMMANDER Roger A. Munson, 66, of Heights-Hillcrest Post 104 in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, is a salesman. When he's not selling freezers and kitchen cabinets, he's selling The American Legion.

A manufacturers' representative who handles all types of merchandise, Munson has built a family firm, R.A. Munson & Associates, into a \$9 million operation. Both his sons, Roger Jr. and James, work for the company. Like his dad, Roger is a Navy veteran.

"Before I even started my own company, I was selling the Legion and the values that it stands for," Munson said in an interview at Legion headquarters in Indianapolis. "For almost 50 years, I have told people to join The American Legion, to vote in elections, to have a stake in our country's future."

Today, with veterans benefits under heavy attack in Washington, National Commander Munson says that his skills will be tested, immediately.

"Signing up members, helping people to register to vote and supporting programs in the community is one thing," Munson explains. "Doing battle with the President and Congress is another."

"I will have to find ways to sell ideas as effectively as I sell products."

Selling the Legion's view on Capitol Hill has never been more important. Veterans benefits are no longer sacred in Congress.

"We need to make ourselves more visible," Munson says. "If we are to protect VA medical care, education benefits for veterans and other valuable programs, we've got to make our presence felt."

Munson pauses, reaching into his briefcase for a manila folder. He opens the folder and holds up a single sheet of paper with the Legion's emblem on top.

"You see that," Munson says, pointing to the top of a chart. "Some 89.5 percent of Legionnaires vote in elections. Isn't that incredible? No organization can match those numbers."

But the fact is, many on Capitol Hill rarely hear from veterans who are unhappy about eroding veterans benefits.

"Congressmen and senators say that if just one percent of all Legionnaires wrote to them, veterans benefits could be saved," Munson explains.

"I think we [Legionnaires] are just too interested in helping other people. We all look out for our communities, children, the disabled. And we don't worry so much about our own benefits and problems."

Munson is right. Legionnaires annually donate some 4.4 million hours of volunteer service and more than \$56 million toward charities for handicapped children, disaster relief and cancer research. The list goes on and on.

"Fellow Legionnaires, we've got to start thinking about ourselves," states Munson. "Capitol Hill doesn't consider veterans benefits sacred anymore. The only way we can save them is to speak out, to write in with our objections."

In the past, the veterans voting block was enough to deter cost-cutting attacks on veterans. The economy was strong. A large military was essential in view of the Soviet threat. Now, with a bad economy and the Soviet Union gone, nothing is safe from budget cuts.

"If there's one thing I've learned in the sales business, it's that *you can't stand still*. Just because something worked in the past, doesn't mean that it will work forever."

Munson says he believes Legionnaires can no longer influence Congress by just voting in elections.

"We have to write congressmen and senators. We have to call them. We have to give them no quarter on veterans issues. No member of Congress, no elected official will address a veterans issue without knowing that 3.1 million Legionnaires are watching, waiting and will react swiftly and decisively in the interest of veterans."

It's tough to catch Munson saying much about himself. It's always "we," "the Legion" or "Legionnaires" at the

**"YOU CAN'T STAND
STILL. JUST
BECAUSE SOME-
THING WORKED
IN THE PAST,
DOESN'T MEAN
THAT IT WILL
WORK FOREVER."**



beginning of every sentence. But here's some background information.

A resident of Mentor, Ohio, Munson had to grow up fast. His mother died when he was 11, his father, when he was 22.

"I had to become more independent and take care of myself," Munson says. "My experience helped prepare me for running my own business and for a commitment to the Legion."

Munson joined The American Legion in 1946, after serving in the Navy during World War II. According to Munson, the Legion was really a vehicle for good will.

"I think one of my greatest accomplishments was my role in getting a health clinic built for Camp Cheerful, a camp for crippled children in Strongsville, Ohio," Munson says proudly. "The project festered for a number of years, but I managed to get the right volunteers and we did it—we got Camp Cheerful a health center."

Munson's hard work and determination did not go unnoticed. At the Post level, he served in every elected office. He went on to become Commander of Ohio's 13th District and later on, Department Commander.

National leadership positions soon followed, including a seat on the National Executive Committee; Chairman of the National Security Commission; and National Vice Commander. A member of numerous commissions, Munson truly rose through the ranks to become National Commander.

"I traveled a lot in those days, with my sales business and with these Legion commitments," Munson recalls. "I didn't see my family as much as I wanted to. But the work was worth it and my family understood."

Munson and his wife, Jane, were married Feb. 12, 1949. Jane has served as president of Ohio's 13th District Legion Auxiliary.

The Munsons have two sons, Roger Jr. (a Legionnaire and Navy Vietnam veteran) and Jim. They also have one daughter, Judith.

Roger Jr. and Jim work with Munson at R.A. Munson & Associates. Judith is an ordained minister with the Church of the Nazarene in Portland, Ore. She is married to a Nazarene pastor and currently is teaching at the Western Evangelical Seminary.

The entire Munson family is religious. Roger Munson is chairman of the 1st Covenant Church of Willoughby Hills. His wife is a member of the Board of Christian Education; Roger Jr. is a Deacon and Sunday School Superintendent; and Jim is a member of the church's trustee board.

The Munsons have five grandchildren: Adam, Anthony, Max, Karla and Jason.

"My family is very important to me. Both families—my wife and children and my fellow Legionnaires. But let me reiterate our mission:

"Don't stand still. *You can't stand still.* Or everything we fought for will be lost."

In a face-to-face interview, THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine asked Munson what direction the Legion should go. Here are some excerpts from that conversation:

American Legion Magazine: You headed the Legion's National Security Commission for nearly a



decade, throughout most of the 1980s. How have our national security requirements changed?

A. Our country spent the 1980s building a military machine capable of countering the Soviet threat. And we did it well.

But now the Soviet Union has been chopped into separate republics. Communism is dead there and throughout Eastern Europe. The fall of the Soviet Union didn't really eliminate multiple threats to our national security, it merely replaced

old dangers with new ones.

And there are also other very real and less defined potential threats in the Middle East and in Asia. Our nation's military forces must continue to be well-manned and equipped, not to pursue war, but to preserve the hard-earned peace.

Q. What are some of these new dangers?

A. At the height of Soviet power, many of the world's hot spots were kept under tight control. Fear of the Soviet Union's military muscle caused hostile neighbors and nationalists to refrain from aggression.

Today, the power vacuum created by the collapse of the Soviet empire has left countries such as Syria and Iraq free to pursue independent agendas. There are now many small nations, ambitious and hostile, who possess chemical and nuclear weapons. And many of these countries are no longer afraid to use them.

The other danger is the potential lack of control over weapons in the territory of the former Soviet Union. Without central control of its large stockpiles of chemical and nuclear weapons, the threat of an independent missile launch exists. Perhaps some madman could try to start World War III.

Also, we can't forget about the former Soviet army's 60,000 tanks. Or the navy's potent submarine force. Or its formidable surface fleet.

Q. Now that the USSR is gone, our government is committed to reducing the size of the U.S. Armed Forces. How can we cut our military without endangering national security?

A. Consider this: 500,000 active duty troops and 250,000 Reserve component troops will be separated from the service by 1995. That's a 25 percent reduction in active duty strength; a 21 percent cut in Reserve capacity. These are major force reductions.

To protect our national security, we must do three things.

First, we must not cut too much, too soon. This means that the United States must not drop its troop strength below 1995's projected levels. Some in Congress support deeper cuts in defense, falling prey to delusions of optimism. It's still a dangerous world.

Second, the citizen-soldier should remain a full partner with active duty forces in combat. The Pentagon's post-Cold War defense plan, called Base Force, would limit the role of the National Guard in war. The Legion must press DoD to keep citizen-soldiers as an integral part of the defense mix. If this is not done, our country could find itself in another Vietnam.



'Fellow Legionnaires, Capitol Hill doesn't consider veterans benefits sacred anymore. The only way we can save them is to speak out.'



National Commander Roger A. Munson

Finally, speaking of Vietnam, we cannot let the changing role of our military overshadow the POW/MIA issue. I believe that by not resolving this issue, we place our national security in jeopardy. Our military must know for a fact that no American service person will ever be left behind.

Q. **The Legion is constantly working on the POW/MIA issue: helping families, conducting investigations and sending representatives to Southeast Asia. Can we do more?**

A. The Legion is regularly criticized by DoD officials who work on the POW/MIA issue. But that's only because we're fighting for the families, and not for the image of their bureaucracy.

At the national level, the Legion's emphasis is right on target: Urging the President and Congress to declassify and release all POW/MIA information and helping POW/MIA families to get through government red tape and stonewalling. We're doing everything possible at that level to resolve the issue.

But there is an opportunity to do more. When we published the Legion's special investigative report on POW/MIAs in the March issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, that was only a first step. Now, we need to write letters to our elected officials. We need to call them. We

need to let them know how important the POW/MIA issue is.

Q. **Many veterans, not just POW/MIAs, pay a price for their military service. What can they expect from VA medical care?**

A. As a medical-care provider, VA helps many veterans who can't get treatment elsewhere. Either they can't afford a private hospital or their war injuries require specialized care that only VA can provide.

But money problems have hurt VA's ability to serve veterans.

Service-connected veterans can expect long waiting periods for treatment. Some are even turned away. For non-service-connected veterans, the picture is much more bleak. Thousands are denied VA treatment every year. With a \$1 billion shortfall in VA's medical care budget, significant improvement is unlikely.

Veterans exposed to Agent Orange can expect little help from VA. For nearly 20 years, VA has skirted the issue of compensating veterans who were exposed to the defoliant in Vietnam. Dioxin, one of its chemical ingredients, has been proved to cause cancer. VA does not yet accept this conclusion for Agent Orange itself, despite the weight of evidence.

Please turn to page 70

DELAWARE, KANSAS TOP RECRUITERS

THE LEGION'S membership campaign, Breakthrough '92, added a welcomed punch to the final 1992 national membership totals.

Thirty-one Departments exceeded 96 percent of their 1991 final membership by May 5. Four officers from each of the Departments were invited to be honored guests at the "Pizza Da Pie" party during the National Convention in Chicago last August.

For achieving that goal, 19 of the Departments also earned a check for \$1,000, and five Departments earned another \$1,000 for achieving 99.36 percent of their final 1991 membership by July 27.

West Virginia, Vermont, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Indiana, New Hampshire,

shire, Montana, Minnesota, Ohio, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Maryland and Rhode Island earned \$1,000 each and invitations to the "Pizza Da Pie" party.

The Departments of Delaware, New Mexico, South Dakota, Idaho and Kansas won \$2,000 each in addition to their invitations to the "Pizza Da Pie" party.

The Departments of Delaware and Kansas earned first place honors and their choice of a 1992 van or car by finishing at the top of their categories, with the highest percentage increase and largest numerical increase for their Breakthrough '92 goals. The Department of Delaware selected a 1992 Oldsmobile Silhouette mini-van, and the Department of Kansas chose a 1992 Ford Crown Victoria.

Delaware, Kansas, New

Mexico, South Dakota and Idaho were also eligible for the grand prize drawing, a check equal to \$165 for each of the winning Department's official delegates to the National Convention. The grand prize drawing was scheduled to be held at the "Pizza Da Pie" party.

Anthony Jordan, Chairman of the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, congratulated all the Departments that participated in the campaign.

"Breakthrough '92, which began in April, has boosted and sustained membership growth much later in the membership year than in the past. Total membership is about 30,000 higher this year, which shows what a

great job all of our local recruiters have done."

But Jordan reminded Legion recruiters that the 1993 membership year had already begun. Jordan urged the 350 Legionnaires attending the 29th annual National Membership Workshop July 31 to Aug. 2 in Indianapolis to "reach for the all-time high heading into the 75th anniversary year of the Legion."

Jordan told the workshop participants that to reach the 1993 membership goal of 3,225,000 members, they would have to stress membership renewals and ensure high retention by transferring members from Departments' headquarters Posts to local Posts. □

Legion's Dispatch A Hit

IN LESS than six months, more than 22,000 Legionnaires and members of the Auxiliary have become subscribers of *The Dispatch*, a biweekly news publication launched by The American Legion in August 1991.

The Dispatch publishes news, features and "how-to" stories about Legion programs. Extensive coverage also is devoted to continuing updates about legislation concerning veterans, particularly VA health-care issues.

The Dispatch is published the second and fourth Fridays each month, except August and December, with daily issues during National Convention.

Complimentary subscriptions are received by all National officers, Past National Commanders, chairmen of all standing National Commissions and Committees, and Department Commanders, Adjutants and Service Officers.

In addition, the complimentary subscriber list includes all current District, County and Post commanders (the latter sent in care of the Post adjutant). Select National Auxiliary officers and Sons of The American Legion officers also receive *The Dispatch*.

To receive a year's subscription, 22 issues, send a check or money order for \$15 to *The Dispatch*, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. VISA and MasterCard also are accepted. □



WWII MEMORIAL—Pennsylvania Legionnaires last June participated in the dedication of a memorial honoring WWII Gold Star veterans who were alumni of St. Thomas College and the University of Scranton. From left, Nicholas Pezak from Post 411, Jessup, Pa.; Charles Cardoni, Post 411; Frank Matyjevich from Post 948, Scranton, Pa.; Michael Hynak, Post 411; Robert Zelno from Post 328, Archbald, Pa.; and Dr. A.J. Sebastianelli, Post 411.

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| Bless This House Perry Como | I'll Fly Away Charley Pride | Sweet Hour Of Prayer Jim Nabors | Brighten The Corner Anita Kerr | Softly and Tenderly Guy & Raina |
| In The Garden Loretta Lynn | Standing On The Promises Johnson Family | The Bible Tells Me So Roy Rogers and Dale Evans | Rock Of Ages B.J. Thomas | A Beautiful Life Statler Brothers |
| Take My Hand, Precious Lord Eddy Arnold | Church In The Wildwood Mike Curb | When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder Marty Robbins | Old Rugged Cross Ray Price | Swing Low, Sweet Chariot Doris Ackers |
| Wings Of A Dove Dolly Parton | When They Ring Those Golden Bells David Houston | The Family That Prays Porter Wagoner | Family Bible George Jones | Whispering Hope The Browns |
| I Love To Tell The Story Pat Boone | Lily Of The Valley Wayne Newton | I Need Thee Every Hour Scott Singers | Jesus Loves Me Tennessee Ernie Ford | Someone To Care Jimmie Davis |
| Me and Jesus Tammy Wynette & George Jones | Blessed Assurance George Beverly Shea | What A Friend We Have In Jesus Norma Zimmer & Jim Roberts | Peace In The Valley Floyd Cramer | Bringing In The Sheaves Burl Ives |
| Abide With Me Don Hustad Chorale | In The Sweet By and By Johnny Cash | Precious Memories Jimmy Dean | Will The Circle Be Unbroken The Carter Family | Help Me Larry Gatlin |
| He Touched Me Bill Gaither Trio | Amazing Grace Willie Nelson | Beautiful Isle of Somewhere The Three Suns | Beyond The Sunset Red Foley | Just A Closer Walk With Thee Anita Bryant |
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Paderewski Goes Home To A Free Poland

IGNACE Jan Paderewski, Polish statesman, concert pianist and friend of American veterans, finally rests in a free Poland. The first modern-day premier of Poland, Paderewski became a symbol of his homeland's quest for freedom.

When Paderewski died in America in 1941 as the leader of the Polish government in exile, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered his body to be placed in Arlington National Cemetery until it could be interred in a free Poland.

Since Roosevelt's order, Paderewski's remains were kept in the housing of the *Maine*'s mast in Arlington National Cemetery.

After a one-hour memorial service June 27, the remains were carried through the cemetery's main gate on a caisson and shipped to Warsaw on June 29, the 51st anniversary of Paderewski's death. Accom-

panying the remains to Warsaw were a delegation of Polish-Americans and U.S. and foreign dignitaries, including Legion Past National Commander Michael J. Kogutek and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Edward J. Derwinski.

Paderewski's final resting place is in a crypt in St. John Cathedral in Warsaw.

Paderewski was involved in Polish freedom movements after World War I. And following Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939, he led the Polish government in exile. After his flight from his homeland, Paderewski frequently thanked American wartime veterans for their sacrifices.

Paderewski, the largest contributor ever to The American Legion Endowment Fund, gave the fund \$28,500 from his American concert piano tour in 1925. He received the Legion's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal, in 1926.

To honor Paderewski's

dedication to American veterans, PNC Kogutek placed a Legion plaque at the *Maine* in 1981. While in Poland last June, Kogutek attended the dedication of the Ignace Jan Paderewski Museum in Warsaw and donated the plaque to the museum.

In ceremonies at Arlington before Paderewski's re-

mains were moved, the Legion placed a new plaque near the *Maine* mast housing.

Although Paderewski is interred in Poland, his heart remains, in America. After he died, his heart was placed in a cemetery niche in Brooklyn. But six years ago, the heart was moved to a Polish-American shrine in Doylestown, Pa. □

Legion Magazine Wins Award

THE September 1991 WWII Commemorative Issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine won first place in the annual Excel awards sponsored by the Society of National Association Publications (SNAP). The issue won the single issue category for publications with \$400,000 or more in advertising sales.

The judges praised the magazine's "comprehensive coverage in a great narrative style."

SNAP's Excel Awards recognize excellence among the association's 300-member publications. The WWII issue was the largest ever produced by The American Legion. It contained 128 pages, and featured 22 articles and more than 100 photos and illustrations. □

Florida's 'Casey' Cason Dies

LONG TIME BOYS Nation and Florida Boys State volunteer Owen "Casey" Cason, 80, died of cancer June 10 in Winter Haven, Fla.

For 25 years, Cason sang and smiled his way into the hearts of those in the Legion's Boys Nation and Florida Boys State programs.

Cason's five-decade law enforcement career began when he joined the Florida Highway Patrol in 1941. He rejoined the highway patrol after serving in the Army in

World War II.

"Perhaps Cason's greatest legacy is the thousands of young people he influenced through Boys State and Boys Nation," said Florida Sen. Bob Graham, a close friend of Cason.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Adams Cason, and daughter, Patricia Cason, of Miami. Cason was buried at Roselawn Cemetery in Lakeland, Fla. The family requested that any donations be made to the Florida American Legion Boys State Inc., P.O. Box 547936, Orlando, FL 32854-7936. □



LEGION TRIBUTE—From left, Arlington Cemetery superintendent John Metzler, PNC Michael J. Kogutek and VA Secretary Edward Derwinski remove Paderewski's plaque for the trip to Warsaw.

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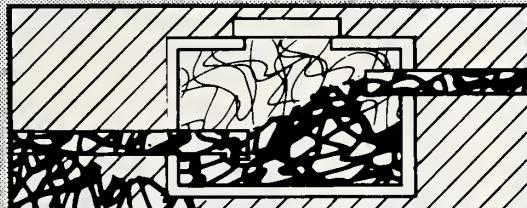
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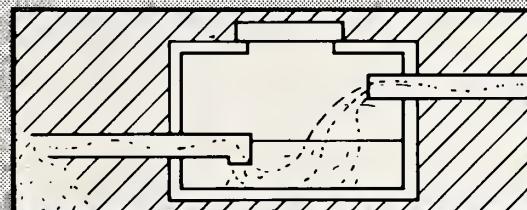
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In Dewey Burkett's Book, 1+1 Does Equal 1

THE DEPARTMENT of Veterans Affairs (VA) surely has to think twice about Dewey Burkett's claim for service-connected disability.

Burkett has lived two lives in the U.S. military: one as a friendly Navy seaman and the other as a shy, nervous Army private.

American Legion Post 4 in Burkett's hometown of Fort Collins, Colo., is helping the 69-year-old veteran in his claim for disability based on dual personality and schizophrenia.

Burkett's dual-personality odyssey began in 1940 at age 17 when he was hit on the head with a laundry stick by a housekeeper. He wandered off dazed and confused until he was picked up by a circus concessionaire who believed Burkett was his lost son, Bill Rice, who ran away two years earlier. Suffering amnesia, Burkett adopted the Rice identity.

At age 19, Rice joined the Navy and earned a Navy commendation for his action as a World War II gunner. While stationed at the Armed Guard Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1943, Burkett wandered from his duty station in confusion. He was court-martialed for being absent without leave (AWOL) and spent six months in the Portsmouth, N.H., Navy brig.

A short time later, he went AWOL again. The Navy finally issued Burkett a bad conduct discharge in 1944.

Burkett's recollection of

the next few years is clouded. He spent some time in mental hospitals, regained his original personality and returned home to the Burkett family, which had not seen him for 11 years. He had no memory of his Rice persona.

In 1950, he joined the Army as Dewey Burkett and suffered a concussion in a parachute jump. He again wandered, this time from his Army post, and ended up in a state mental institution where he received electroshock therapy. Transferred to Valley Forge Army Hospital in 1951, Burkett then insisted he was Bill Rice.

A subsequent FBI investigation revealed he was both Bill Rice—a Navy seaman—and Dewey Burkett—an Army private.

The Valley Forge psychiatrist blocked the Rice persona from ever again emerging. He classified Burkett as schizophrenic with multiple personality disorder. Schizophrenia has a combat-aggravation disability rating that allows service connection.

Two years later, however, an Army medical examination board classified him as suffering only from a dual personality—a condition with no disability rating. So when Burkett received a general medical discharge, he was granted a pension but not service-connected disability.

Burkett has gone through numerous appeals trying to prove he has schizophrenia in addition to a dual personality disorder.

Failing that, Burkett

could still receive treatment at VA hospitals if the Naval Records Correction Board accepts his contention that his mental disorder caused his bad conduct. He's been trying since 1953 to change the status of his Navy discharge.

Burkett claims he can't hold a job or afford the psychiatric help he needs while living on his Army pension and wife's salary.

With the financial help of Post 4, Burkett went to Washington, D.C., in November to present his case before the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA).

The BVA remanded Burkett's case to VA's Den-

ver office, directing it to supply Burkett's Army medical records. The VA regional office was expected to reach a decision before the year's end.

It's a Catch-22 situation, according to Gerald Vandenberg, a claims representative in the Legion's office in Washington, D.C. Vandenberg says the disability for which Burkett is trying to get benefits leaves him confused, making it difficult for him to present his case.

But Burkett is determined. "An injustice has been done," he says. "And I'll keep at it until it's corrected." □

CHARLESTOWN POST 26



MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS—Post 26 of Charlestown, Mass., presents the first annual Strout and Sullivan memorial scholarships to students of Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown. The scholarships are named after H. Vincent Strout and Lt. Col. William F. Sullivan, past Commanders of Post 26. From left, Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer; Timothy M. Burke, recipient of the \$1,000 Strout Memorial Scholarship; Bunker Hill Community College President Kathleen E. Assar; Christine A. Davis, recipient of the \$1,000 Sullivan Memorial Scholarship; and Past National Historian James W. Conway, Post 26 Commander.

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VA Doctors, Nurses Need Better Pay Incentives, Legion Says

THE American Legion has told the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs that it supports doctor and nurse pay reform to enable VA to become more competitive with the private sector.

The Legion testified in support of S.2575, which would improve the recruitment and retention of VA nursing personnel. In addition, the Legion urged VA to more accurately estimate the cost of recruitment and retention programs in its annual appropriation requests.

In other congressional testimony, the Legion sup-

ported most of the provisions of S.1424, which would require VA to establish mobile health-care clinics in 30 states over a five-year period. However, the Legion recommended waiting for the results of a pilot program before expanding the clinics to 30 states.

A Legion spokesman also told the senate committee that the Legion supports passage of the "Veterans Preventive Health Act of 1992," which would allow VA to adopt more preventive-care procedures.

Other Legion congressional testimony included these issues:

1993 Defense Appropriations. Urged Congress to

maintain a well-manned and well-equipped military to preserve peace. Stated that the Legion believes the Department of Defense should proceed slowly and exercise great caution in downsizing the Armed Forces. (Senate Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriation)

Foreign Aid. Favored increased foreign aid in fiscal year 1993. (Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee)

Female Veterans Health-Care Services. Supported S.2028, which would expand VA health-care services furnished to women veterans. (Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs)

POW Benefits. Called for review of VA's adjudication and training guidelines on all POW disabilities. (House Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance)

VA Drug Pricing. Urged decreasing the price VA has to pay for drugs. (House Subcommittee on Health and Environment)

Veterans' Eligibility For VA Care. Recommended creation of eligibility rules that would provide veterans access to VA medical care. (House Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care)

Disability and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Reform. Supported comprehensive DIC reform to protect the future of veterans' survivors. (House Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance) □

LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION

Post 155 of Walters, Okla., proudly boasts of having two WWI veterans among its ranks. The Post gave the two WWI veterans certificates to commemorate their Service. Ninety-five year-old C.V. Payne has 72 years of continuous membership, and 95-year-old Virgil Williams has 15 years continuous membership at Post 155.

Also honoring WWI veterans was **Post 183** of Strasburg, Colo. Legionnaire Peter Christ turned 100 last June, and Post 183 celebrated Christ's birthday with a pot luck dinner.

One of the first duties of newly elected Commander Arnold M. Peterson of **Post 284**, Colonial Heights, Va., was to present the Post's Legionnaire Of The Year Award to Roger Puckett for his outstanding service in Post activities.

Post 317 of Skaneateles Falls, N.Y., honored 70-year member Edward A. Cronauer, who was Post 317 Commander in 1934-1935. Cronauer received a plaque signed by Past National Commander Dominic D. DiFrancesco commanding him for his 70 continuous years of membership.

Legionnaires from the **Department of Connecticut** don't walk away when children are in need. The Department raised \$7,341.50 through its Legion Family Walkathon for the Children's Miracle Network Telethon. In addition, Legion and Auxiliary volunteers manned phones to take pledges of financial support for the Newington Children's Hospital. □

BOY SCOUT OF THE YEAR

MARK WESLEY GIBSON of Valrico, Fla., was named Scout of the Year for 1992 by the National Executive Committee and will receive an \$8,000 American Legion scholarship.

A member of Boy Scout Troop 11 sponsored by Post 139 of Valrico, Mark is the son of Col. and Mrs. Gary C. Gibson. Mark is a recent graduate of Bloomingdale Senior High School and plans to major in environmental engineering at Texas A&M University.

The 1992 runners-up for Scout of the Year were Michael P. Kerr, sponsored by Post 152, Ness City,



**MARK WESLEY GIBSON—
Scout Of The Year**

Kan.; Christopher D. Wacker, Post 43, Durant, Iowa; and Dennis W. Griffith II of Post 15, Decatur, Ala. Each of the runners-up will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. □

SHOP AT HOME

Black Forest Weather House

This original Weather House is an authentic miniature of the tidy cottages that dot the Black Forest hillsides. In it live grumpy old Herr Hans and his flaxen haired daughter, Brunhild. When papa Hans strides out with his diminutive umbrella, watch out for rain or snow! But when Brunhild goes for a stroll, be of good cheer for clear, dry weather and sunny skies are ahead! Their movements are controlled by an ingenious, yet simple mechanism based on the principle of Hygrometrics. People everywhere in the world use these quaint Weather Houses to help foretell weather conditions in their own localities. Each Weather House is meticulously handmade with methodical German Precision — every one fashioned with the rich sepal woods and quality material of the Black Forest.

No. 48660 — Weather House \$9.88
SPECIAL: Two for only \$15.95, Three for \$20.95

LIMITED OFFER: We have a very limited quantity of a SUPER DELUXE Weather House. With all of the above features, it is much larger in size. A standout in home decor.

No. 4848D — Super DeLuxe Weather House ... \$18.95



TELLS THE WEATHER EVERY MORN 'N EVE

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GERMANY

WATCH AS THEY SWING INTO ACTION!



Golf & Tennis
Wirl-i-gigs
Adds a Sporting
Touch To Yard!

Measures:
15"H x 14 1/2"L

18



JUST SET THESE COLORFUL GIANT SIZE WIRL-I-GIGS INTO THE GROUND AND THE SPORTING ACTION BEGINS! The red propeller spins with the breeze and each player really gets into the swing of things. They each swing at their ball in a fascinating, realistic set of body movements that you must see! All are 3-DIMENSIONAL and modeled from Hi-Impact Resins that won't chip, fade or rot. Great details... each wears a colorful outfit. The golfer sports a red and black checkered pant with yellow sweater, black and white shoes and a white cap. Their movements are just so lifelike — you'll be amazed!

No. 8190M — Man Golfer / No. 8190L — Lady Golfer
No. 8191M — Man Tennis Player / No. 8191 — Lady Tennis Player
Any One \$12.95 / Any Two Only \$24
Any Three \$34 / Any Four \$42

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Giant CLASSIC RED BARN BIRDFEEDER

Full Color



Silo & Barn Seed
Compartments

A variety of colorful songbirds will call your yard home. Our Classic REO BARN is a dual compartment feeder. Pull out hopper in barn hold up to 6 lbs. of seed. Silo has separate dowel perches and hold another 1 lb. of seed or more thistle. Comes with hanging wire or can be mounted to 3/4" rod if you prefer. Either way our REO BARN will add real interest to your yard and you will be rewarded with a show of birdlife all year long. Full color. Hoppers are translucent for monitoring seed level. Hi-quality, hi-impact materials to withstand wind, rain and sun. You must see.

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6 FT COBRA IN A BASKET

Looks So Real

Deadliest &
Most Feared
Viper!

Lifelike
Museum
Quality



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OUR LIFELIKE, MUSEUM QUALITY REPRODUCTION IS GUARANTEED TO COMMAND ATTENTION WHEREVER YOU DISPLAY IT. Comes in its own authentic woven basket. Open the lid and the hair on your neck will stand on end. More than 6 feet of deadly looking reptile, comes coiled and ready for you to pose any way you wish. Handpainted on rubber composite that even captures the sheen of a living snake. You really must see this... not for the squeamish!
No. 9163 — 6 Ft. Cobra in A Basket \$19.95



OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS TREE

Full Bodied — Handpainted

Perfect for Mantel or Entrance
Nearly a Foot Tall
Crafted From Heavy Duty PVC

Our old time tree is overflowing with delightfully detailed ornaments and toys of holiday's past. Baseballs, Rocking Horse, Sail Boats, Candy Canes and so much more. Youngsters will revel in the colorfully handpainted toys and ornaments. They will jog your memory and tug at your heart with the nostalgia for Christmas gone by. At the snow colored base there is a band of red ribbons, holly leaves and berries surrounding this tree. Detailed, 3-dimensional and nearly a foot tall you will treasure this tree for many years to come!

No. 9105 — Indoor-Outdoor X-Mas Tree \$18.95
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HOW TO USE VETS

This month there are 527 military reunions listed on these pages. However, VETS has information on more than 10,000 other reunions. For information on reunions for any military unit or ship, call

(900) 737-VETS
(900) 737-8387)

If you know the VETS five-digit number assigned to the ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed immediately after the unit in the magazine. If you don't know the VETS number or haven't seen the ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS

operators may still be able to provide you with information. Many units are enrolling daily in VETS. Operators are on call Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time; from noon to 8 p.m. Central Standard Time; from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mountain Standard Time; and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Phone calls cost \$1.95 per minute, and the average call takes two minutes or less. Proceeds help support various veterans' and children's programs and services sponsored by The American Legion.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS, P.O. Box 10088, Columbia, MO 65205-4000. Unit names may be published two times per unit per year, upon request.

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Please turn page

See Why... Your Will Is A Dead Giveaway

Did you know that writing a Will may be one of the biggest mistakes we can make?

It's true!

A Will doesn't protect our loved ones against paying huge fees to lawyers, executors and courts for even the smallest estate. Probate can slice up to 10% or so from an estate and take months or years for final settlement.

In fact, the only thing worse than having just a Will is the nightmare that's created when you have no Will at all.

Because then the State steps in to decide who gets our assets -- our bank account, home, car, valuables, other possessions. Money we've worked so hard to earn is gobbled-up by court and legal fees before our heirs ever get one penny.

What can the average wage earner do to avoid the financial headaches of a Will? Plenty.

Today, under current laws anyone can eliminate costly legal and court fees with a little-known, simple legal paper called a living trust. And you don't have to be rich to enjoy its benefits.

A living trust has been praised by our nation's leading financial planners, and reported in publications such as The Wall Street Journal, Money Magazine, Business Week and others because:

- It eliminates the costly and lengthy probate process. The estate goes directly to your heirs without going through the courts.
- It eliminates the need for an attorney and legal fees that cut your estate. Does away with all court costs, too.
- It gives you complete control of your estate to make sure that all your wishes are carried out.
- A living trust is revocable, which means that you can change your mind at any time about who is going to receive your assets.
- It gives you the right in most cases to name yourself as a trustee, and your spouse or someone else as a co-trustee. Plus the right to change trustees at any time.
- If you own out-of-state real estate, like a vacation house or cabin, you can save a bundle by avoiding the need for probate in a second state.
- Unlike a Will where your finances and everything you own is a matter of public record for anyone to see, a

living trust is secret.

The Wall Street Journal reported that it takes two years to complete the average probate in California. The article also stated that since a living trust is much faster, cheaper, and more private than settling a Will, there are many advantages to using a living trust instead of just a Will.

And Business Week reported that many people are using a living trust instead of a Will to reduce the possibility of heirs fighting over your estate.

You must never forget that a Will must be probated and the fees for the probate lawyer and executor -- not including court fees -- range from 6% to 10% and are paid before any of your heirs receive their inheritance. That can take a big chunk out of even the smallest estate when attorneys charge anywhere from \$60.00 to \$150.00 an hour or more!

Look at what happened to the modest estate of Simon Morris:

- The Will of Simon Morris, a Florida resident, left \$77,500 in cash to his widow. Before she could receive it, the probate process grabbed \$9,375.
- Mr. Ken Bradley left \$144,567 directly to his surviving spouse. The probate "fees" of \$8,500 were appealed by the widow. The court ordered a refund of \$7,750 with interest.
- R.L. Roberstone probably thought his Will would get his \$162,114 safely to his heirs. As they found out probate fees amounted to \$6,484.59.

The pity of it all is that these people could have avoided having large bites taken out of their hard-earned property by using a living trust. They could have passed every cent to their loved ones without squandering money on probate.

If you think a living trust is only for millionaires --- you couldn't be more wrong. Whether you earn \$25,000 or \$100,000 a year -- and whether your assets are huge or small -- a living trust will save you money. In fact ... on a percentage basis living trusts save more on small estates than large ones!

And you can save even more because we have shown hundreds of thousands of people just like you how to do it. It's simple. The DSA Living Trust Kit was developed

after much research with a team of legal scholars and practicing attorneys. It explains in easy-to-understand

language how to set up your own living trust.

Instructions and guidelines are written in simple English. Illustrated step-by-step forms show you how to custom-tailor a legal trust to meet your special personal needs.

- Titles to your real estate, automobiles, boats, stocks, etc. are all safeguarded in your Trust.

Though DSA's exclusive Living Trust Kit will save you a small fortune -- and save your loved ones thousands of dollars later on -- we have kept the price especially low to enable everyone to benefit from it. And now you can save even more. We've cut the price in half and we insist you examine it on a 90-Day No-Risk Trial.

It's easy to get your Living Trust Kit. All you have to do is print "Living Trust" on a sheet of paper. Send it along with your check or money order in the amount of \$9.95 plus \$2 handling instead of \$19.95 or charge to your VISA/MasterCard by including account number and expiration date to: DSA Financial Publishing Corp., Dept. W4159, 708 - 12th Street N.W., Canton, Ohio 44703. For even faster service, VISA/MasterCard or C.O.D., call toll free 1-800-321-0888, Ext. W4159.

Send for your Living Trust Kit within the next 15 days and you'll also get a unique Free Bonus Report on estate planning. The supplies are limited so you must act now.

Want to save even more? Do a favor for a relative or close friend and order a second Kit. That's 2 for only \$20 post-paid. Use your Kit for 90 risk-free days. Show it to your lawyer or advisor. If not 100% delighted--don't keep it. Simply tear off the cover and send half of it back for a full refund. Fair enough?

A living trust is too important to put off another day. Especially when you can get the same kit thousands paid \$19.95 for at half price. So order by phone or mail now!

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HEALTH CARE

Continued from page 16

to H.R.5263 currently in Congress. H.R.5263 calls for Medicare to pay VA directly for treatment of nonservice-connected disabled veterans and military retirees at three or four test sites.

"H.R.5263 would not only allow more veterans to use VA medical facilities, but also would save taxpayers money. VA can provide health care to Medicare at less cost than private doctors and hospitals," says Legion National Commander Munson.

However, there is strong opposition from HHS, which administers Medicare.

The problem, says a HHS spokesman, is that Medicare is unwilling to pay for a veteran's care—someone they see as already eligible for care at VA expense. Currently, as many as 12 million nonservice-connected veterans—more than half the veterans treated by

VA—may be Medicare-eligible.

Also opposing H.R.5263 is VA Secretary Edward Derwinski, who complained about H.R.5263 in a letter to Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, which drafted the bill.

Derwinski told Montgomery that VA was already serving virtually all eligible veterans, and H.R.5263 would place an unfair burden on the system.

Many veterans, however, would argue that VA is definitely not serving "virtually all eligible veterans."

"Mr. Derwinski appears to believe that eligible-by-law veterans and veterans who need VA care are one in the same," says Munson. "We know this is not the case."

But the blame is not wholly VA's, according to Stellar. As a cabinet level entity, VA has heavy-duty political ties. If the administration sets forth a budget, "it would be political suicide to dispute it," said a high level VA source. "If VA's top echelon makes too many waves, they are replaced with someone more politically malleable."

Chairman Stellar notes a growing attitude of lawmakers and others who see VA as a veterans' welfare program. "This attitude is responsible for VA being a target for budget cuts."

"I am sick and tired of lawmakers and others who try to equate veterans' benefits with handouts," says National Commander Munson. "They are earned benefits paid for in blood, and the scars are there to prove it."

Which course VA will follow depends on VA's leadership and the veterans' community itself. As long as veterans say nothing to their elected representatives, the VA budget will never be enough to care for all the poor and sick veterans who need it.

"Whether it's open heart surgery, burial or education benefits, or the need to buy a new house, VA eventually touches the lives of all Legionnaires," says National Commander Munson. "The day will come when you and I will need some help from VA. When that time comes, I hope and pray VA will be there for both of us." □

By Ken Scharnberg

THE VA'S SICKBED

Continued from page 16

65—9 million individuals—will be veterans.

This challenge raises many questions. Does VA have enough long-term care programs? Enough nursing home beds? How many of these veterans will seek and obtain VA-sponsored care? Are there feasible ways to expand this number? Would veterans agree to pay part of the cost to avoid being denied VA care altogether?

VA must develop a strategic plan to address these and many other considerations, and it must have the means (money, staff, equipment, infrastructure) and the vision to do it.

VA cannot be all things to all people; its resources are limited. In calling on Congress to enact streamlined eligibility rules that provide certain veterans with all needed health-care services, VA leaders have failed to launch the changes required to meet this objective.

Congress must establish explicit eligibility criteria, but this task has been complicated by VA's failure for more than a decade to position itself

to effectively care for aging veterans.

The expansion of its outstanding non-institutional care programs (adult day care, hospital-based home care, etc.) to all VA hospitals, the restructuring of medical center missions, the conversion of hospital beds to nursing home beds and other logical changes have received far too little attention. VA officials project that these changes are five to eight years away. In my view, that's not soon enough.

Equally important is the question of whether the public will continue to support an independent health-care delivery system for its veterans. There are very good reasons that it should.

This country and its veterans have traditionally looked to VA to treat combat-related injuries and disabilities and the postwar stress-related and rehabilitative needs of those who accept the nation's uniform. Its medicine is particularly sensitive to the unique concerns of the more than 1 million veterans who annually use its hospitals.

The VA patient population is composed of individuals with, at best,

modest incomes who more often than not cannot afford private health insurance and who, in the case of its older patients, would further burden a Medicare program already bursting at its fiscal seams. Bottom line: without VA, taxpayers would pay more for the care of veterans who are fortunate enough to make their way to it, and many others would fall through the cracks.

More than half the nation's practicing physicians have received at least a portion of their training in VA hospitals. Each year, VA trains approximately 100,000 health-care professionals, and it is affiliated with more than 100 medical schools across the country. VA has one in every 16 hospital beds in the nation. Its medical research program benefits veterans and non-veterans alike.

Such a system is not one we can afford to lose by wholly fusing it into a national health-care plan. We cannot allow VA health care to lose its identity, to be lost in the crowd of health care by voucher, but it can certainly complement the reform effort. It can and must be a part of the solution. □

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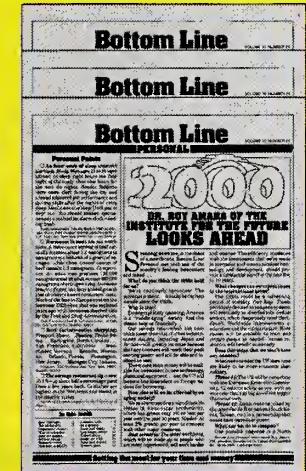
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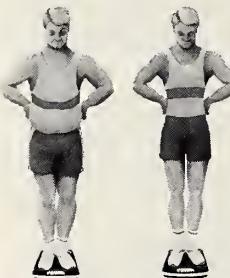
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SCREEN VICTORIES

Continued from page 23

trait of a commander on the edge. Terrific aerial sequences also recommend this riveting drama.

Stalag 17 (1953) (Paramount Home Video, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90038): "You put 630 sergeants together and, oh mother, you've got a situation!" quips the narrator of this sharp, cynical POW comedy. And that's just what director-writer Billy Wilder did, balancing moments of side-splitting humor with sobering reality in the tale of a stool pigeon in a German prison camp.

William Holden won an Oscar as the prime suspect. His portrayal proves that many POWs weren't paragons of patriotic virtue but self-interested, bored, disillusioned soldiers just trying to survive.

Mister Roberts (1955) (Warner Home Video, 4000 Warner Boulevard, Burbank CA 91522): William Holden and Marlon Brando almost landed the title role, but director John Ford insisted on Henry Fonda, and the two produced World War II's greatest character comedy.

As a frustrated supply ship lieutenant who yearns for active combat, Fonda superbly embodies the spirit of many restless soldiers wracked with guilt over their positions of safety. James Cagney's megalomaniac captain, William Powell's philosophical ship's doctor and Jack Lemmon's irrepressible Ensign Pulver complete the comic quartet.

The film astutely depicts monotonous labor, crew camaraderie, raging hormones and frenetic R&R, but the serious moments leave indelible impressions.

The Young Lions (1958) (Key Video, 39000 Seven Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152): Imperfect characters, flawless acting and an insightful script distinguish this epic adaptation of Irwin Shaw's anti-war novel.

Marlon Brando plays a Nazi with a conscience, Dean Martin, a guilt-ridden coward (a role intended for Tony Randall), and Montgomery Clift a tough-minded Jew who bravely fights anti-Semitism in his own army.

The film concentrates more on the war's mental and emotional effects than large-scale battles, and accurately

portrays how heroism did not become all soldiers, that even good men could submit to their ugly side.

The Longest Day (1962) (CBS Fox Video): "When you get to Normandy, you have only one friend—God," says Brig. Gen. James Gavin (Robert Ryan) in Darryl F. Zanuck's kaleidoscopic chronicle of D-Day.

The best of the international spot-the-star war films. This bold extravaganza recalls in mesmerizing detail the fear, exhilaration, confusion, luck and resolve of that fateful day.

Requiring almost as much preparation as the invasion itself, the film employed 472 U.S. Army troops to fight the simulated battles, which Zanuck insisted be shot only in conditions identical to those of the actual event. The use of authentic locations as well as subtitles for all scenes involving foreigners, heighten the you-are-there atmosphere.

Patton (1970) (CBS Fox Video): George C. Scott reportedly felt "ashamed" of his performance as "Old Blood and Guts" during the filming of this mammoth biography. Yet he won an Oscar anyway and "Patton" became hands down the finest screen dissection of a major military figure.

As the controversial general who's told that his worst enemy is his own big mouth, Scott fuels his tour de force performance with so many subtle nuances and emotional shadings that it's tough to separate actor and role.

Released during the height of Vietnam, this unashamedly pro-war film nostalgically recalls the last great popular war and the legendary figure whose ego and foolish pride required as much diplomatic attention as keeping the Allies allied.

On my honorable mention list are:

Wake Island (1942) (MCA Home Video, 70 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91606): A hard-hitting account of America's first Pacific defeat.

Air Force (1943) (Key Video): A masterful tribute to the crew of a B-17 bomber.

Bataan (1943) (MGM/UA Home Video): A somber look at a battalion's last stand on the Philippine peninsula.

Battleground (1949) (MGM/UA Home Video): A taut recreation of the Battle of the Bulge.

The Big Red One (1980) (CBS Fox Video): A moving memoir which shows that "surviving is the only glory in war."

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COLUMBUS

Continued from page 35

A. Most scholars believed that Vinland had to be a warmer area where vines and grapes grow—*all* because the sagas mentioned these things.

Yet, I believed this was wrong. For one thing, the main interpretation of the Icelandic sagas came from the 1070 A.D. writings of a German, Adam from Bremen, who didn't fully understand the Norse language. Thus, he assumed that the word "vin" meant vine when, in fact, it could also mean meadow. I, therefore, concluded that the sagas actually meant to refer to Vinland as "meadowland."

This was reinforced by the sagas' description of the area, which almost exactly fits in with the site at L'Anse au Meadow, and the short sailing distances they recount.

Q. How did you manage to locate these old Viking ruins?

A. It took a long and difficult search. I started in Rhode Island and worked my way north for years, combing every indentation along the coast

by ship and hired airplanes. Traces of Indians and Eskimos were found, but nothing of the Vikings.

Finally, on Newfoundland's northern coast, I ran into fisherman George Decker, who said there were some faint signs of old ruins nearby at a place called L'Anse au Meadow. We took a look and concluded that our search had finally ended.

It was there that my wife, Anne Stine, and our team began our years of careful excavation, uncovering the buildings of turf walls and other structures that could only have been Norse and probably Leif Ericson's Vinland.

Q. What happened to those settlers?

A. The sagas provide the answer: The settlers returned to Greenland after a few years. The reason was that hostile Indians—whom the Vikings called "skraelings"—made life so difficult they had to leave.

Unlike Columbus and later settlers, the Vikings had no firearms that could stop an attack at a distance. And even though they were unbeatable in hand-to-hand combat, the clouds of arrows launched in Indian attacks took their toll.

Q. What precipitated the great Please turn page

If Columbus Didn't Discover America, What Did He Do?

OKAY, Christopher Columbus may not have discovered America 500 years ago. There is enough evidence that someone else was first to land on the North American continent.

So why did most people for centuries think he got there first? Because Columbus was the first European to spread the word of what he had found. Call him the first international real estate developer.

A month after Columbus returned from the New World in April 1493, the report of his historic voyage was published in Spanish. A short time later, it was translated into Latin—the scholarly language of the day—and published in Rome as a booklet, *De Insulis Inventis*, which means "On Islands Discovered."

With the advent of moveable type, the invention that made widespread printing possible, Columbus'

booklet became kind of a Middle-Age bestseller.

Columbus reinforced the impact of his writings by making personal appearances in some of Europe's royal courts, the way today's celebrities peddle their books and movies on the radio and TV talk-show circuits.

Even better, Columbus had living proof to support his claims of a New World—natives (he called "Indians" because he thought he had reached India), parrots and exciting new plants, such as tobacco.

He promoted his "discoveries" well. The word got out and the rush to the New World was on. But it left Columbus in its wake.

Despite three more trips to America, named after someone else—explorer and writer Amerigo Vespucci—Columbus never regained his popularity. He fell on bad luck, mismanaged his affairs and died in obscurity. □

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COLUMBUS

Continued from page 58

Viking expeditions and voyages to America?

A. A reason often mentioned is that Scandinavia was overpopulated, and this led to heavy pressure to emigrate. There was also an inbred spirit of adventure and desire for plunder.

Yet neither would have been possible except for one key development—the Viking longboat. With this graceful, fast and uniquely seaworthy craft, the Vikings became masters of the sea. They sailed wherever they wished, all around the British Isles and down the West Coast of Europe and into the Mediterranean. And in the case of the Norwegians, they hopped from one island to another, westward from the Faeroes to Britain and Ireland, to Iceland and Greenland, and finally to North America.

Q. What brought an end to the Viking Age?

A. A major factor was that people in Germany and other European countries eventually learned how to build larger and stronger ships to protect themselves. These big, closed galleys were clumsy and slow, but they could cope effectively with attacks from low, open longboats. So the Vikings gradually lost their position as masters of the sea.

Q. If Norwegian seafarers settled in Newfoundland, isn't it likely that they would have sailed on and explored America's East Coast, or even gone up the St. Lawrence into the Great Lakes?

A. Well, remember that the Vikings were a coastal people, so they probably would not have traveled inland to any extent—especially after their experience with Indians showed this was dangerous.

Q. Is it still possible that people today might find evidence of the Vikings' presence in the United States and elsewhere?

A. I don't think so. Recalling our own experiences in finding the ruins at L'Anse au Meadow, I feel that traces of any other possible settlements would, indeed, now be very difficult to locate. □

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CAR WARS

Continued from page 28

Approximately 85 percent of all new cars sold in a given year are purchased to replace the old clunker in the driveway. On average, consumers replace their car every seven years.

A policy aimed at giving consumers a tax benefit if they purchase a new car at some interval sooner than the seven-year replacement period will potentially lead to a rather large expansion of the market. Such policies preserve competition, yet expand the market enough to permit continued market-share declines by the Big Three without incurring the adverse consequences on the economy.

Not only do such policies benefit the American auto industry and the American consumer, but they also help solve critical environmental problems.

Exhaust from cars on the road account for a large source of pollution, especially the older pre-catalytic converter cars. Policies aimed at inducing consumers to give up older high-polluting cars in favor of newer, cleaner

cars will also benefit the environment.

Even these policies, however, are only a temporary solution to the long-term structural problems facing the American industry. In the end, the burden of saving the American automotive industry will have to be borne by the industry itself. If the American automobile industry is to overcome the foreign challenge, it must shed its image of poor workmanship earned during the 1970s and early 1980s.

To this end, General Motors recently invested billions to develop a new-car division that is divorced from the traditional assembly line of the American auto industry. General Motors' Saturn division was born. GM hopes that its team-built Saturn will play a key role in restoring the American car companies' long lost image of quality.

This, combined with a gradual increase in the sensitivity of the American buying public to inequities of the trade relationship with Japan, may signal the rebirth of the American auto industry. If such efforts are unsuccessful, however, we will surely witness the continued deterioration of one of America's greatest industries. □

the United States. Of course, the Big Three have lost plenty of money, too. That doesn't surprise anybody because it's all over the papers. But when you tell people the Japanese automakers have lost money, they're usually shocked because that hasn't been widely reported.

If this keeps up—who knows—maybe the headline five years from now will read: "The Japanese Auto Industry: Can It Be Saved?"

In the meantime, the American companies will keep cutting costs, improving quality, updating designs and offering more safety features. And the American buyer will keep recognizing these efforts, I think. □

GENERAL MOTORS

R E S P O N D S

Continued from page 27

nation, we need to pull together the best minds in industry, academia and government, and put them to work on the task of making the American automobile industry a world-class competitor.

The cooperative approach already has a toehold in this country. In most other industrialized countries, cooperation between industry, government and education is firmly entrenched. Through a series of cooperative projects, GM, Ford and Chrysler are working with government to solve critical technological issues involving materials, fuels and other topics.

Where we need a real national effort is manufacturing. In order to regain our competitive edge, America needs a concentrated effort to leapfrog the competition in manufacturing quality and productivity. Currently, the federal research and development budget of \$71 billion has practically nothing devoted to manufacturing.

With the end of the Cold War, we have a tremendous opportunity to redirect some of our national resources and talent toward the goal of making American manufacturing a leader in the next century.

The Japanese have set the current standard of the world with their lean manufacturing techniques. Now, it's up to America to jump ahead with new manufacturing technologies that are superlean and superflexible. We must develop new techniques that will allow us to bring new products to market faster and at far less cost.

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CHRYSLER

R E S P O N D S

Continued from page 26

We've changed. That's what the voters are looking for this year—change. And we've changed.

But Mr. Sullivan looks to the past. He says the Big Three have lost market share during the past five years and therefore predicts "in all likelihood, American automakers will continue to lose market share over the next several years."

If I were him, I'd check the facts. This is what he'd find. So far this year, Chrysler's sales are way up, and Honda's are down. And it's a similar story for many of the other American and Japanese companies. The Japanese, who once looked invincible, are starting to look a little vulnerable.

I never thought I'd live to see this, but an analyst from Nomura Research Institute is now predicting some of the Japanese transplants in America will close up shop before the end of the decade. He says if they keep losing money they will "leave and never return."

Japanese automakers have been losing about \$3 billion a year recently in

General Motors have talked to the people at the National Laboratories, and they've visited our research and development facilities. Some joint projects have emerged from these meetings. But there's much more that can be done. Working together, the unparalleled expertise of our National Labs and American industry could make a real difference in our future.

There's no shortage of brains, talent or experience in the United States. All we need is the will to use the resources at hand to create a better future for our country. Only by making America's manufacturing productivity and product competitiveness better than anyone else's in the world can we increase our country's standard of living and our real national security. □

FORD RESPONDS

Continued from page 27

But in the area of international trade, there is only so much that we, as one company, can do. That is why Ford has taken a position that supports free and open trade but also ensures that everyone abides by the rules.

The ultimate goal is a free and open trading system that is mutually beneficial to all partners. The rules of world trade should be virtually the same for all participants. And no competitor should be allowed to break the rules without having the whistle blow.

Major export thrusts from a long-time closed home base disrupt other countries' economies and create chronic trade imbalances. Pricing to sell at a loss but to gain market share violates the international rules of trade.

The meetings between the U.S. and Japanese auto companies held in January and May were designed to encourage agreement on the rules of world trade so that one company or group does not compete unfairly against the rest of the world. Progress toward this goal has been slow, but it is important that dialogue has begun.

One word about executive compensation. I cannot speak for other companies, but I believe that Ford has acted responsibly. My compensation, and that of my management team, is based on company performance. Since 1988, a year of record Ford profits, compensation to the Chief Executive officer dropped nearly 65 percent,

consistent with the trend of Ford's earnings. And no Ford executive has been awarded a bonus in either 1990 or 1991, a further reflection of the recent economic conditions faced by our industry.

Ford is prepared to compete aggressively, and we're investing billions to do so—but we believe strongly that all major participants in world trade should work for harmony and abide by the rules that promote mutual advantage and open trade for all. □

TAPS

Taps notice are limited to only those Legionnaires who have held high national or department offices. We regret that we cannot extend the honor to all our members.

Jack C. Brown, OK Department Judge Advocate (1964-66, 1968-70), Department Commander (1966-67).

Jerome P. Nolan, NJ Department Historian (1991-).

Earl C. Nuttall, MD Department Sergeant-at-arms (1981-82), Department Vice Commander (1982-84), Department Commander (1984-85), Alternate National Executive Committeeman (1986-88), National Executive Committeeman (1988-90).

James G. Ray, KY Department Vice Commander (1967-68), Department Vice Commander (1986-87), Department Commander (1989-90).

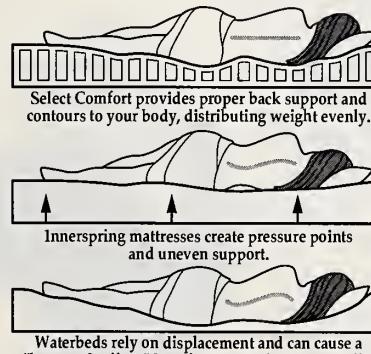
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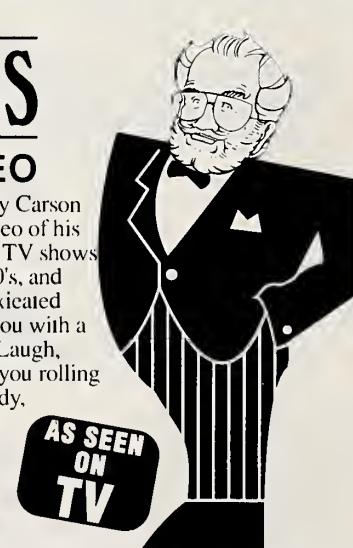
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do better in coming up with new ideas?

A. Oddly enough, our political parties have not been very good at developing new ideas and new programs. They are primarily a mechanism for selecting candidates and winning elections.

Q. Does that explain the people's general attitude about presidential campaigns—that the political system doesn't bring forth fresh ideas for solving the nation's problems?

A. In part. It takes someone stepping up and daring to embrace large new ideas, like Jerry Brown grasping at the flat tax idea from the Hoover Institution. Bill Clinton, in fact, has been a very diligent student of the studies and reports of some think tanks.

Q. Why is the government lagging in this area?

A. The administration has its own resources within government. It has its own policy planning staff at State and policy research groups in other departments. The President has a Council of Economic Advisors and many, many other resources for research and analysis.

Any deficiency may have more to do with the nature of a President and the relatively constricted circles of advice that he may listen to.

Q. Government deficit spending, the public debt, energy dependence, slums, welfare, unemployment, the foreign trade imbalance. Why aren't we doing better in meeting these problems?

A. Just this spring we saw a group of 100 of the nation's leading economists propose some very sound, centrist recommendations for dealing with our economic problems.

The question is whether our political leaders, both executive and legislative, have the political will to act on those ideas.

There is a way in which the think tanks can help muster that political courage. And that is by slowly working outside the political framework. In quiet conference rooms and seminars, think tanks can bring together people of diverse ideological and political perspectives and hammer out a workable consensus.

Q. Where do think tanks get their money?

A. They get it from several sources. There are some that rely primari-

ly on government contracts to support their research efforts, especially those that have worked on national defense such as Rand.

The federal government also funds research through other agencies such as the Labor Department or Health and Human Services, which have funded groups like the Urban Institute and Hudson Institute, for example.

Traditionally, private foundations, such as the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, have also given heavily to think tanks. There are also conservative foundations now supporting the relatively new array of conservative research groups. And since the mid 1970s, corporations and corporate foundations have also given to think tanks.

Q. To what extent does the source of funding influence studies by think tanks?

A. For those think tanks that are large and well-established, the mix of funds is reasonably well-balanced. They tend to be independent from reliance on any single funder. The outcome of their studies is not affected, but funders can shape the topics selected for study. There are smaller think tanks that are dependent on a handful of funders, where one worries about how outside funds shape the agenda and the final product.

Q. You've written a book on the Brookings Institution and you're now working on a book on the Center for Strategic and International Studies. What new ideas are coming along in these think tanks?

A. As you look at their research, you see the glimmerings of where public policy is headed. One of the most important things shaping future agendas at both places is a sense that the traditional distinctions between foreign and domestic policies are breaking down. It's very hard now to speak of foreign policy without thinking of the domestic components.

I think we can also see a consensus emerging on the nature of the long-term economic problems of the country. Namely, that the growth of productivity is the key to overcoming many of the nation's problems. And that means more investment in infrastructure and education among other things.

Q. Are other countries more successful in using the expertise of think tanks?

A. No, the think tank, as we know it, is essentially an American invention. Other nations have tended to rely on experts who are government employees or who work in government-funded research institutions.

Our organization of expertise, relying on private institutions, is uniquely American. Yet as we see new democracies emerging in Latin America or Eastern Europe, these nations are looking to the American model for organizing expertise. Even the Japanese have shown such interest in recent years.

Q. And in international competition, are our think tanks going to be able to hold their own?

A. Yes, because the American think tank is the beneficiary of the world's best system of university education and graduate training.

And as long as we are producing top-quality economists, political scientists, students of international affairs and people from all of the other academic disciplines, we will have a pool of talent to feed the think tanks.

And they will continue to come up with ideas that will see us into the next century. □

GET OUT VOTE

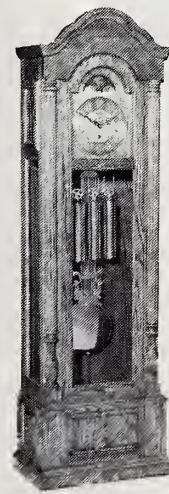
Continued from page 12

elections. That's a statistic few organizations can match. And remember, only 55.7 percent of the average U.S. adult population votes.

"We know the Get Out The Vote program brings people to the polls," says Americanism Chairman Sammons. "And we know that it helps Legionnaires live up to the words in the Preamble of The American Legion Constitution."

In the early 1920s, Legion Posts would station buglers at all polling places to sound the fall-in call for people to vote. Legion Posts today continue that tradition of good citizenship by publicizing the importance of voting through printed materials, "VOTE" lapel tabs and direct community involvement.

"Getting out the vote has been a Legion priority since the birth of the organization," says National Commander Roger A. Munson. "And we continue to believe that one vote can make a difference." □



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FAMILIES

Continued from page 33

over time. Indeed, between 1950 and 1970, the average income of fathers doubled after adjusting for inflation.

But these increases have slowed to a crawl. Between 1970 and 1990, the wages of the typical male head-of-household grew by only 20 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars. And taxes ate up most of that.

Squeezed by the double burden of higher taxes and stagnating wages, many families did the only thing they could do to keep ahead of the bill collector. They sent the homemaker—the person who always had been there to take care of the children after school—into the job market. In 1965, just 33 percent of mothers with children were employed; today it's 62 percent.

The inevitable result? More than half of all children under the age of 5 are now being raised by baby sitters, nannies or day-care centers.

What exists today has been dubbed "the family-time famine." Parents typically spend 40 percent less time with

their children than parents in earlier generations, from 30 hours per week in 1965 to 17 hours by 1985.

Since parental influence and guidance are the most important factors in a child's psychological, moral and intellectual development, it should come as no surprise that this "parenting deficit" is exacting a high toll.

As Susan Koshute, a Pennsylvanian mother of three, puts it: "Kids need their parents. It seems like a lot of children these days are being raised by the TV—with obvious results. We try to shield what our kids are exposed to, but they are clearly affected by what other kids pick up, and what they do."

Surveys show that nearly all parents feel the pressure to work harder and longer to keep the family financially afloat is eroding family life.

A 1989 survey by *The New York Times* found that 72 percent of employed fathers and 83 percent of employed mothers feel torn between the demands of their jobs and their desires to spend more time with their families.

A 1988 *USA Today* survey found that 73 percent of two-parent families would have one parent remain at home full time to care for the children if "money were not an issue."

Clearly, parents are trying to resist the financial pressures which are forcing mothers into the labor force. About half the employed mothers of preschoolers work part time so they can devote more time to their family.

What today's parents are looking for from the government is pretty basic. It's what their parents had: an economic and tax system that provides for a slow but steady improvement in family finances, allowing the wife to stay home at least during the children's early years.

Our system no longer provides this steady growth. Consequently, many of today's parents with preschoolers have become "tag teamers." Mom cares for the kids while Dad is at work, then Dad takes over while Mom works the evening shift.

THE way to help families with children is simple. Government should reduce the huge family tax burden to ease the financial pressures that force parents to spend more time on the job and less time with their kids.

Another unwanted government gift to parents is lousy schools.

While the U.S. education system spends more money per student than almost any other nation, American students rank dead last in academic achievement when compared to other industrialized countries. This is hardly the way to prepare for the high-tech 21st century.

The only category where American students score high is "self esteem." Translation: "We don't know anything, but we feel great about it."

Typical in her complaints about the mediocrity of the public schools is Anna Lee, mother of three in Arlington, Va. Lee, a part-time secretary married to a house painter, complains, "My 8-year-old son is keeping up in school but they really don't teach him much. He has virtually no written work. I simply can't imagine what they do during the week. But when a parent expresses concern, they stonewall you. I'd like to put my kids in private school or teach them myself at home but we just can't afford it."

Parents also are worried about the lack of moral values or the outright warped values communicated by the public schools.

Former U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett warns of the "values clarification" ideology that has swept the public schools. This movement teaches that right and wrong are relative; if it works for you it's "right," and shouldn't be criticized by parents or

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teachers. The effect, Bennett says, is to "leave children morally adrift."

As author and social critic Midge Decter puts it: "When public schools distribute condoms to kids without their parents' consent, but cannot give children a copy of the Ten Commandments even with their parents' consent—you know something is rotten."

Overall, we need to reverse those government policies that harm families. The following is a three-step plan to accomplish that goal.

Step 1: The federal government should cut taxes by \$1,000 for each child in a working family.

Tax cuts for families with children should not be financed by raising taxes on other Americans. Instead, tax relief should be paid for by capping the future growth of federal non-defense spending. Increases should be no more than 5 percent per year—well above the rate of inflation. Each dollar of tax relief would be matched by one dollar less in new spending. Thus, family tax relief would not cause the federal deficit to increase.

Step 2: Restore productivity growth in the U.S. economy. Productivity is the output of the average worker per hour of labor. Higher productivity equals higher wages, which help relieve the financial pressure on families.

To boost productivity, business needs to increase its investment in modern facilities and machinery. U.S. tax policy, however, does nothing to encourage such investment. Indeed, the United States taxes investment earnings at a far higher rate than any other nation with which we economically compete. Cutting taxes on capital gains and business investment historically sparks productivity and leads to an increase in real wages.

Step 3: Don't force low- and middle-income children to attend schools without a choice.

The average American public school system spends more than \$5,000 per pupil per year—in many cases with terrible results. Competitive private schools on average provide better education at much lower costs.

Rather than giving \$5,000 per child directly to public schools, the local and state governments should give these funds to parents as education vouchers. Then, let the parents choose the schools their children will attend, public or private.

Parents could choose the education setting best for their children. All schools that received vouchers would be prohibited from discriminating on

the basis of race. Parents should be free to use the vouchers in religious as well as secular schools. The U.S. Supreme Court has clearly ruled that parents may use government vouchers to pay for religious education, just as a veteran can use funds from the GI Bill to go to a seminary.

Under a voucher plan, no parent would be financially forced to send their child to a public school they thought was failing to provide a decent education or undermining the child's moral development.

SCHOOL choice is the way out for parents and children now trapped by poverty in failing public schools. Such a program, limited to competing public schools, already has been tried in New York City's once infamous East Harlem school district. The result was a dramatic improvement in virtually every measurable academic category.

Public school teachers know how bad the public schools have become. In Chicago, for example, half the public-school teachers send their own children to private schools. Hypocritically, the public-school lobby is working to deny poor parents the same choice.

Would giving parents school choice destroy public schools? Of course not. Minnesota has had a statewide, high-school voucher plan for years. Although some students opted for private schools under the plan, the public schools upgraded their curricula to encourage students to stay. All students benefited as a result.

Replacing monopoly with competition will improve the quality and responsiveness of the public schools rather than eliminating them.

All Americans know that the family is the core of society. It is the principal means by which knowledge, motivation, values and character are passed from one generation to the next. When the family is weakened, the nation is weakened.

But our government has been waging an unintended war against the family. High taxes have eroded family income and slowed wage growth. Our schools teach moral relativism while failing to teach basic skills.

If America is to flourish, we must give families the hope they can be better off financially than their parents' generation and the confidence their children will receive the best education possible. □

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MOTHER TONGUE

Continued from page 18

tainly would have startled the husband to pick up a gift on Christmas morning and find a card that began, "In Memoriam to my darling departed Henry."

When terrorists released newsman Terry Anderson in December after 2,455 days in captivity, the *Post's* man in Germany praised Anderson's composure. At a press conference the former hostage bantered with his colleagues, relished the stimulus of questions, savored every exchange. "It was a bravado performance."

Bravado? Nope. Something that is bravado is ostentatious. The *Post's* reporter was reaching for *bravura*, which carries a connotation of dashing, brilliant, exciting.

A small weekly in Saginaw, Mich., welcomed home a soldier who had been abroad. He was stationed in Germany "with the U.S. Army's Persian missile base." How's that again?

In Martin County, Fla., commissioners last October were considering a proposal to release water gradually from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie estuary. Reported the *Stuart News*: "The plan earned platitudes from members of the St. Lucie County Initiative."

Platitudes? Gracious! *Plaudits* would be nice, but who wants to earn platitudes?

In Topeka last year, a legislative committee voted to establish a state records center. *The Capital Journal* explained: "The center would become a purgatory for records produced by state agencies." *Purgatory?* That's a long way down from a *depository*, but that's probably what Kansas had in mind.

All right. Why do these things happen? Why do professional writers tumble so often into pratfalls?

Television is a convenient villain, and surely a part of the blame may fairly be placed upon the tube. We are raising a generation not of readers, but of viewers. A recent survey found that a typical American 13-year-old watches five hours of TV a day. Those who only look and listen are not going to catch the difference between *epitaph*

LOST AND GONE

MANY FINE old words have lost their meaning and must be counted among the departed:

- *Gay*, which no longer means "merry and bright";
- *Replica*, which no longer means a "work re-created by the original creator";

• *Parameter*, which has come to mean anything the user wants it to mean;

• *Nubile*, which once meant "marriageable" and now means "sexually attractive";

• *Epitome*, which used to mean "an abridgment, abstract, summary," and now means the best of anything.—J.J.K. □

and *epithet*. Or between *winch* and *wench*, or *imminent* and *eminent*, or between *affect* and *effect*.

Our over-burdened system of public education surely has something to do with it. Teachers are kept busy filling out forms, maintaining discipline and eluding bureaucrats. They rarely have time to teach old-fashioned grammar. Evidently there is little time for spelling either, for the persistent errors in spelling that appear in the press are enough to make an old editor cry.

Many young reporters seem to have little knowledge of what has gone before. If they ever studied history, or geography, or classic literature, it is not readily apparent. Any allusion more remote than Achilles' heel leaves them blank.

In Wichita, Kan., a reporter was describing a 19th century fox-hunting outfit for women; the outfit included a "quail-bone corset." In Miami, a reporter wrote about the Guardian Angels, "who came in like pied pipers of Hamlet and promised to get the rats out."

The corset was whale-bone, of course, and the piper came to Hamelin. It's not a *staff infection*, for Pete's sake, it's a *staph infection*. A mountain climber doesn't *repel*; he *rappels*. It's not a *cyst* bath; it's a *sitz* bath.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana are not "the Waleses," and she is not "the Princess of Whales." There's a big difference between *profligate* and *prolific*. Birds do not arrive in "herds," they arrive in flocks. Or coveys. A sow is not a he-pig but a she-pig.

Many writers appear never to have time enough to look things up in a dic-

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tionary. As one consequence, like the AP's man in Kuwait City, they don't know a winch from a wench, or sight from site, or rein from reign. They trip constantly over such homophones. A homophone is one of two or more words that sound more or less alike, but are spelled differently and have different meanings. They cause incessant trouble.

The *Cleveland Plain-Dealer* sent a reporter to cover an upscale party. A photograph ran with the piece: "all were enjoying the reverie at the Yale Alumni Association annual ball." *Reverie* at a Yale ball? More likely, *revelry*. Columnist Jack Anderson reported in 1990 that abuses continue in Tibet, "even though China has lifted marshal law." A new shopping mall in Ohio said it would include a gift shop, a beauty shop and "a marshal arts school." Any member of The American Legion could have told them it was a school of the *martial* arts.

Punctuation also causes problems: A column for the lovelorn carried an ad from a "pretty respectable woman." Chances are she was a "pretty, respectable woman."

The English language has more than

600,000 words, which ought to be enough for every day, but at Fort Bliss, Tex., the commander sent a form letter to the parents of a recruit: "I am pleased to inform you that Michael has arrived safely at Fort Bliss and has begun the soldierization process." *Soldierization!* Aaargh!

AND when writers get all tangled up in their syntax, it can be chaos. A reporter for the AP tried to explain a Supreme Court ruling last year: "The court refused to reinstate the Maryland drug conviction of a man who said police violated his rights when they searched luggage he left at a friend's home without a warrant."

In Augusta, Ga., a reporter had real problems describing a robber: "After receiving around \$173, he ran through Rosie's parking lot and may have left in a white two-car door, police stated."

In Las Vegas, police were seeking a man who confessed to a month-old slaying: "He sent us a note that he killed his wife along with the keys to the house." In Parkersburg, W.Va., a bride wore "a long white wedding dress trimmed in lace and white shoes."

In Portland, Ore., a book reviewer criticized Ken Follett's novel, *Night Over Water*, as the story "of a Pan American flying boat filled with clichés." In a Page 8 grocery in Georgetown, S.C., shoppers found a notice in the produce department: "If the package size you want is not on display please ask the perishable manager."

In Arlington, Tex., back in 1985, the AP reported that "homosexual activity in past months in a city park has triggered a heated campaign against all forms of adult entertainment led by Councilman Jim Norwood."

I don't mean to be too harsh on my brothers and sisters of the newspaper business. Considering the opportunities for error, and taking into account the speed with which a daily paper must be produced, they do a good job.

We can do better. Whether we are writing a love letter, a business letter, a term paper or a Sunday sermon, we can try to obey a few elementary rules:

Have something to say. Say it clearly. When in doubt about the spelling or meaning of a word, look it up. Look it up! Look it up! You may discover that the machine on the road to Kuwait wasn't a *wench* after all. □

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Senior Citizens with Money in the Bank should Read This before it's Too Late

If you have worked hard all your life and managed to put away a nest egg, you might end up losing most of your life savings because of a defect in Medicare.

If you or your spouse suddenly become ill and require extended nursing home care...NO ONE will help you with the nursing home bills. Medicare won't and neither will your health insurance. By law you are responsible for the nursing home bills yourself. Only after you have used up virtually all of your money, will Medicaid step in. That's because Medicaid, like Welfare, only aids the poor. By some estimates, the average couple's life savings can be wiped out after only 13 weeks of nursing home care.

Rich people don't have to worry because they can afford super-expensive special nursing home insurance, while the poor are taken care of by Medicaid.

Now that just doesn't seem fair to working people with a lifetime of hard-earned savings. The system they have supported with tax dollars, seems to have forgotten them. Savings intended to provide security in retirement, or help for children, can quickly go up in smoke.

The fact is, if you don't know how to protect your assets, here's what can happen to you. By law, before Medicaid will pay nursing home bills, you have to spend all your countable assets except \$2000 (or as low as \$1500 in some states.) Countable assets mean not only money in checking and savings accounts...but also any funds in CD's, IRA's, Savings Bonds, Mutual Funds, stocks, whole life insurance, annuities and other types of investments.

They can also take a vacation home or a second

car. In addition, your entire Social Security or pension check can be taken to cover nursing home expenses. What's more, if you are single or widowed, you can even lose your house.

According to the federal law called the Spousal Impoverishment Act of 1988, if one spouse requires extended nursing home care, the healthy spouse can be forced to surrender HALF of their combined countable assets. And if you have a sizable estate, they can legally take MORE THAN HALF.

Is there anything you can do to stop this nightmare from happening to you? Yes. You are protected by law and can use several legal techniques to place your countable (or vulnerable) assets into the uncountable (or protected) category. The problem is, most people are not aware of their legal rights. Unfortunately, most people think Medicare will take care of them, so they unknowingly leave their assets vulnerable and in jeopardy.

Your legal rights and the many methods of protecting your money are now revealed in "How to Protect Your Financial Security." This financial self-defense manual tells you simple legal procedures for preserving your money and warns of pitfalls to avoid. Here is some of the valuable material you learn:

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- This type of bank account can prevent a nursing home from touching it
- This common legal mistake can stop you or your spouse from receiving emergency medical care
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ROGER A. MUNSON

Continued from page 41

VA medical care, for those who can get it, remains a valuable benefit of military service. But the system is in trouble.

Q. How can VA be saved? What role should the Legion play in its survival?

A. Let me say this: The Legion is one of VA's most vocal critics and one of its most staunch supporters. But we are the first to go on the offensive when it tries to abandon its mission—to care for all veterans.

VA is a valuable resource for veterans. It is important we keep it going and make it work for those who need it. That's our goal when we attack VA—to make it better, to improve it.

Horror stories about VA are not uncommon, though. Botched surgeries. Long waiting periods. Veterans turned away, with nowhere else to go. And VA's money problems are at least partially responsible.

The Legion can ensure VA's survival two ways:

Urge Congress and the administration, through the Office of Management & Budget, to give more money to VA. Congress gives VA just enough money to run a bare-bones operation. Resources are so strained that poor service and tragedies occur.

Monitor VA closely to be sure it delivers high-quality, timely medical care to veterans. We are doing that now and will continue to do this through our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission.

We will be critical of VA in order to save it.

Q. As The American Legion approaches its 75th Anniversary, are there any issues that threaten its mission? What new challenges lie ahead?

A. The American Legion is a very strong organization that has stood the test of time. It has pleased the defenders of the old and the supporters of the new.

But, as the nation's largest veterans organization, the Legion must face some new challenges.

Skyrocketing postal rates are threatening the lines of communication that enable Legionnaires to organize community service and coordinate charity events.

For example, THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, which cost \$180,000 to mail in 1970, today costs close to \$5 million. Legion publications at the Department and Post levels are also suffering under the burden of overly inflated postal rates. How can we help our communities when we can't afford to talk to them?

Securing better education benefits for Desert Storm veterans is another challenge for the Legion this year. Today's Montgomery GI Bill provides only 42 percent of the average cost of a state college tuition in 1990-91. They deserve more.

Membership is also important. We must set realistic goals for growth—not too high, not too low—and reach those objectives. Today, the Legion can expect to grow 3 percent every year, at least. And we must make this happen. The more people in the Legion family, the stronger our organization is.

Protecting the American Flag, the symbol many of us risked our lives for, will be one of my personal priorities as National Commander. Defending it will be a challenge for The American Legion.

Since the Supreme Court found that flag-burning is a protected form of free speech, the Legion has been on the offensive. We've taken our cause on a state campaign to pass memorializing resolutions to protect the flag. And it's working.

With 27 states on board, we are well within reach of our goal: 38. With 38 states, we feel that these combined forces can get a constitutional amendment rolling to protect our flag. Let's commit ourselves to this end.

Q. It sounds like you're ready for a fight. Who are the good guys and who are the bad guys?

A. Let's start with the bad guys. Foreign lobbyists are the only real bad guys on my list. Here I'm talking about ex-high government officials who sell access to policymakers in the United States to representatives of foreign countries. They destroy U.S. industries and must be stopped.

And let me say this: I'm not looking for a fight. But if that's what it takes to defend this country and its veterans, I'll do it.

But there are so many good guys and I hope we can concentrate on uplifting the good people instead of focusing exclusively on hunting down the bad ones.

VA's dedicated doctors, nurses and volunteers. Veterans who fly the POW/MIA flag and fight for a full accounting. Citizens who rally for a strong national defense and a strong National Guard. People who work toward a constitutional amendment to protect our flag.

You can't stand still. Let's work together to build on the good people that are in our corner. If we do this, our efforts can only take us in one direction—forward. □

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Continued from page 52

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 LST-202 (WWII) 11421
 LST-764 11567
 USCG Papaw (WWII) 11424
 USCGR Papaw 11604
 USS Casper PF-12 10056
 USS Cor Caroli AK-91 17049
 USS Glendale PF-36 17031
 USS Gloucester PF-22 11463
 USS Sausalito PF-4 30015
 USS Van Buren PF-42 10529

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 2nd Bn., 5th Rgt., E Co. (Vietnam-1967-68) 11599
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 3rd Bn., 4th Mar.Div., I Co. (Vietnam 1968-69) 11554
 3rd Bn., 1st Marines Assn. (1941/45) 30006
 3rd Bn., 4th Mar. Rgt. (1928/88) 22307
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 5th Div., 26th Rgt., 1st Bn., Co. A (WWII) 30008
 5th Rgt., 1st Bn., Co. D (1967-68) 30003
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 19th Prov. Marine Co. (Recife, Braz.-1942/44) 30005
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Life membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

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 Thomas Langan (1991) Post 8, Winter Haven, FL
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 Frank Shimor (1992) Post 460, Solon, IA
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 Cecil Osgerby, Allze Raven, Weston Raven (1986), Kerry Ball, Ernest Flesch, Roy D. Keller, Allen Lambert, Robert Smith, Clarence Tewksbury, Bert Vant, Grant Watson, Stewart Wieland (1987) Post 7, Caro, MI
 William M. Rice (1991) Post 570, St. Clair Shores, MI
 Donald Bodelson, Leo Zarbock (1992) Post 54, Red Wing, MN
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 Thomas R. Murphy (1992) Post 2, Manchester, NH
 Frank V. Lenkey, Robert J. Sandberg, Russell B. Waddell (deceased) (1990), Norman E. Beatty, W. Fred Belet, Robert L. Dodd (1991) Post 258, Blairstown, NJ
 Anthony A. Abone (1992) Post 24, Rome, NY
 Rocco A. Sidari (1988), Samuel F. Navarra, DeForest Williams (1992) Post 35, Albion, NY
 Robert E. Fountain (1992) Post 246, Baldwin, NY
 William H. Baxter, James L. Bonadio, Lawrence Bowman, Richard L. Burgler, Jerome F. Burnasser, Dimitri J. Churpita, G.E. Cullen, Fred J. Forsyth, George Harvey, Franklin Licht, James E. Schaff, Charles J. Schear (1992) Post 264, Tonawanda, NY

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Notices are published only at the requests of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants, using Search for Witness Forms available from Department Legion Service Officers.

45th Air Supply Sq. John Leon Sovern Jr. needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Erding Air, 187th MDA, he was electrocuted on June 28, 1948, suffering neck and back injury. Contact CID 1167.

4th Platoon, Co. B, 159th RCT BN. Andrew G. Schulte needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, August-September 1945, he was hurt by shrapnel when a rifle grenade exploded on the firing line. Contact CID 1170.

Co. D, 714th Tank BN., 3rd Inf. Div. Dalton Joe Hollar needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., 1955 or 1956, he had an operation on his left knee. Contact CID 1171.

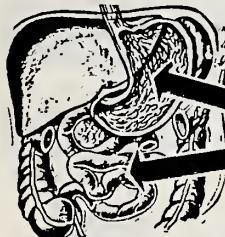
Co. H, 338th Inf. Rgt., 85th Inf. Div. Arthur J. Gilbertson needs witnesses to verify that while on the front lines at Po Valley, Italy, in June 1944, he was wounded in the face during a mortar attack. Contact CID 1168.

USS Crockett PG-88 Ronald G. Reese needs witnesses to verify that while at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, in the spring of 1970, he injured his back. Contact CID 1169.

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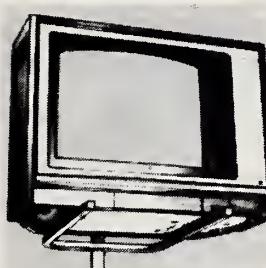
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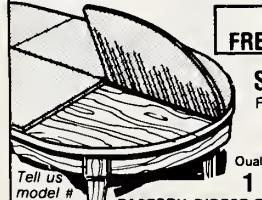
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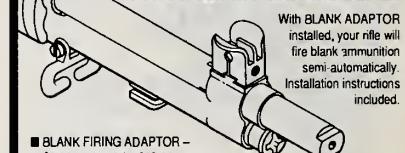
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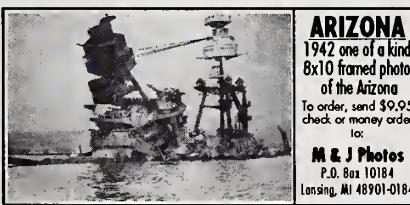
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Galbraith asked, "Does that mean you foresaw the defeat of Japan?" The man said, "No, but we did observe that the victories of our glorious army and navy were occurring ever closer to our home islands."

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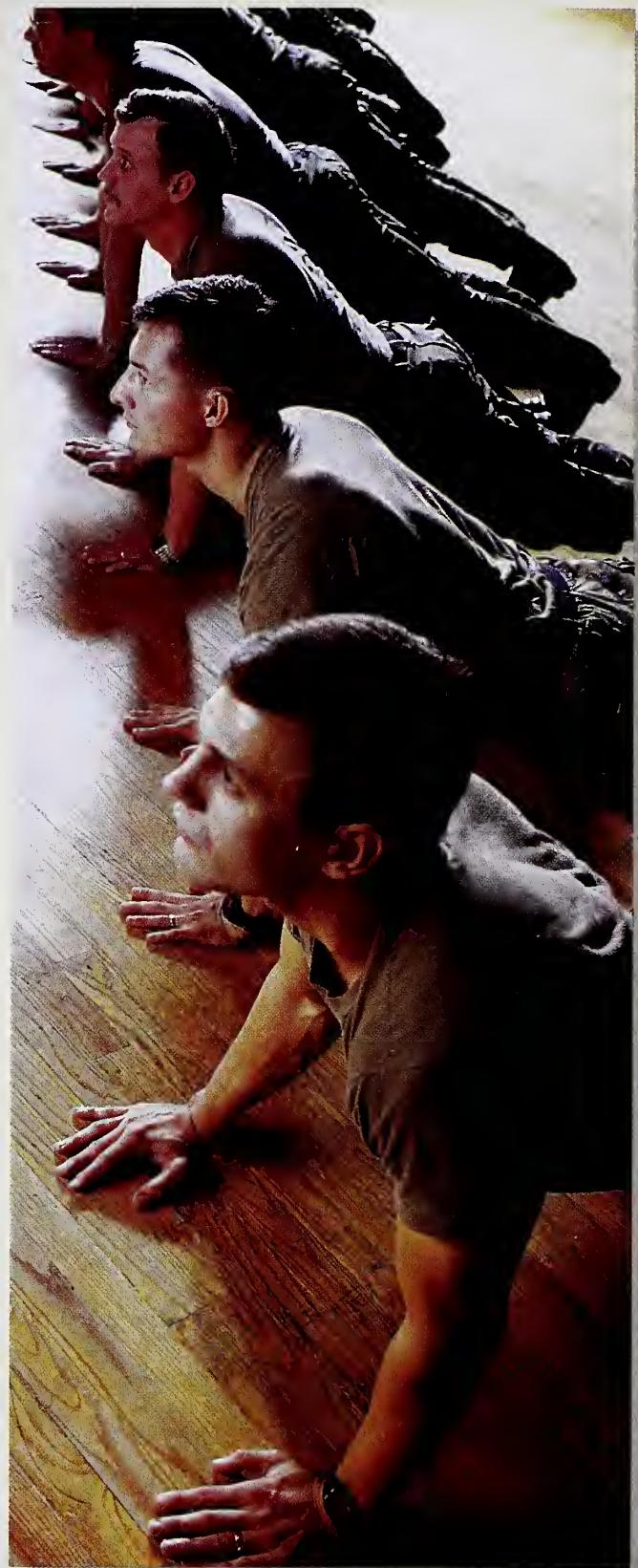
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